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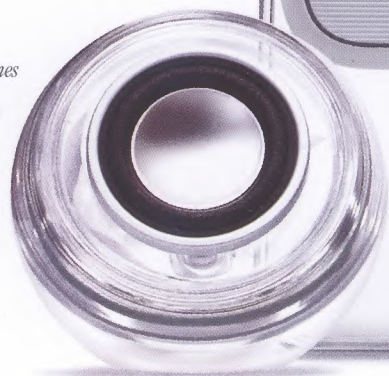
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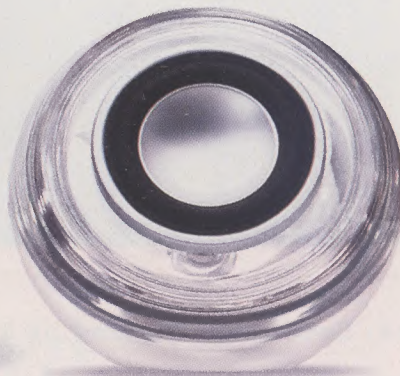
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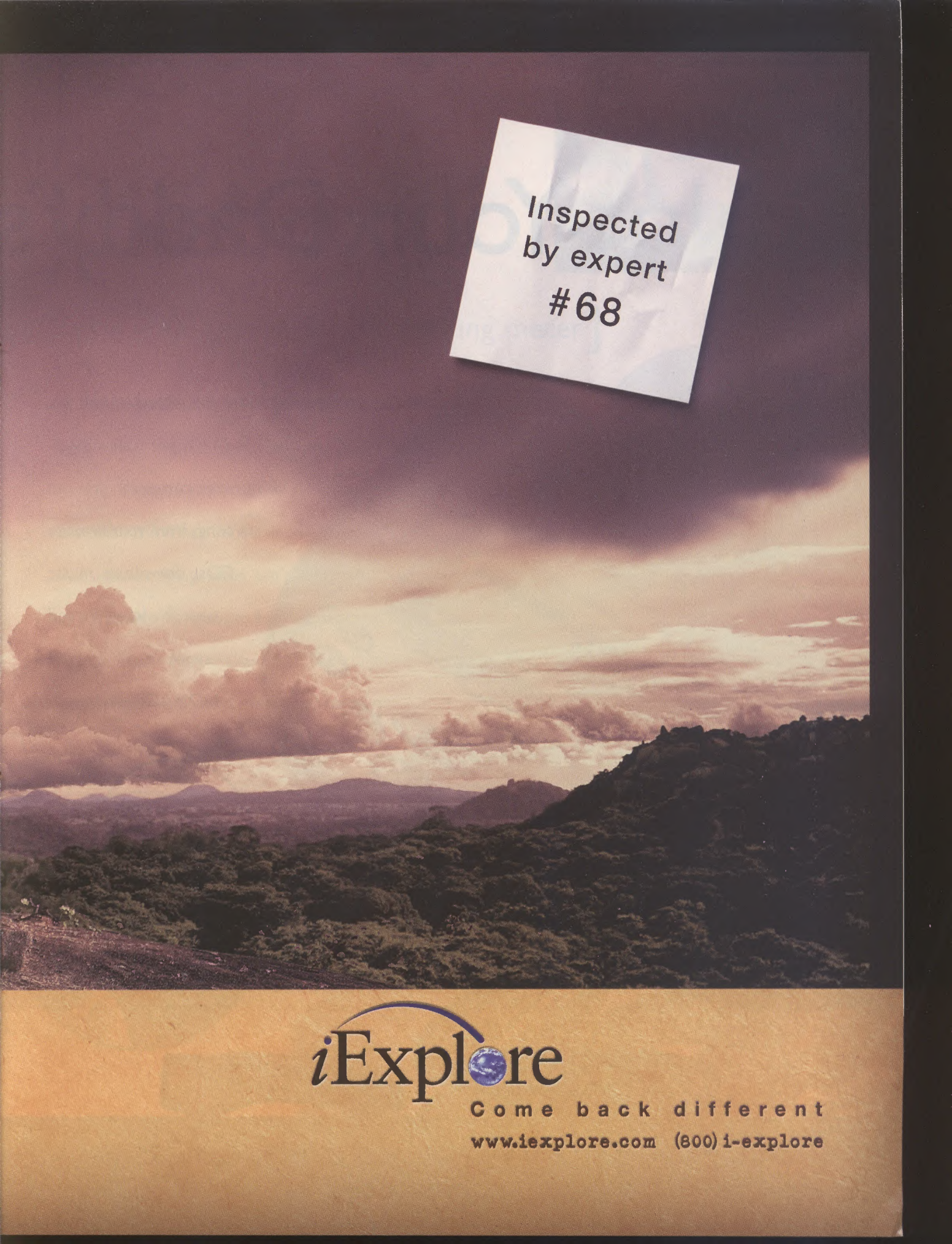


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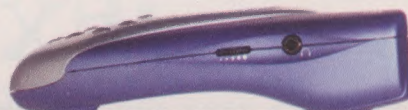


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OCTOBER 2000



Parties and Privacy

WITH ALL THE DIGITAL-MUSIC LAWSUITS, COURT RULINGS, AND name-calling flying around the Internet world, you may not realize that *some* of us are having a good time. The third *Yahoo! Internet Life* Online Music Awards were held at New York's Studio 54 this summer, with **ALANIS MORISSETTE**, **ISAAC HAYES**, **AIMEE MANN**, and **DAVID BOWIE** headlining. As you'll see from the photos, it attracted a crowd that ranged from low- to high-tech, from low- to high-glitz. (By *low-glitz*, I mean some of us editorial types. But I have to say that **BEBE NEUWIRTH**, my copresenter, made me look *really* good.)

Now we go from glitz to the assault on privacy in a hyperclick, though that's not unusual in this (cyber)space. Privacy is our big story this month. We've assembled a number of tough takes from different angles, anchored by "Nowhere to Hide," by Los Angeles-based journalist and author **ROBERT SCHEER**. Besides being a celebrated interviewer, a columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*, and an all-around contrarian, Scheer is the person with whom I shared a nontechie discovery of computers lots of years ago. He and I wasted

uncountable hours offering each other enthusiastic but deeply uninformed advice on software we couldn't figure out and overpriced gizmos that promptly went obsolete. But give us this: We were out there, online, when all this began.

Also scaring us this month is **JEFF HOWE**, in "Big Boss Is Watching," while **CHARLES C. MANN**, in "Cover Your Tracks," restores some hope. Elsewhere, West Coast editor **DAVID SHEFF** checks in with superhacker Kevin Mitnick; senior editor **GORDON BASS** argues that the wireless movement is clueless (for now); and in yet another hyperclick, senior editor **CREE MCCREE** sets out our "Fall Entertainment Preview"—all the fun that's fit to click this season. So, when all's said and done, our advice is: Party on, but watch your back.

Barry Golson

Barry Golson, Editor in Chief



WHO'S WHO

1. Alanis Morissette

2. Betsey Johnson and daughter Lulu

3. *Y-Life* editor in chief Golson and Bebe Neuwirth

4. Martha Stewart and Ziff Davis CEO Jim Dunning

5. Isaac Hayes

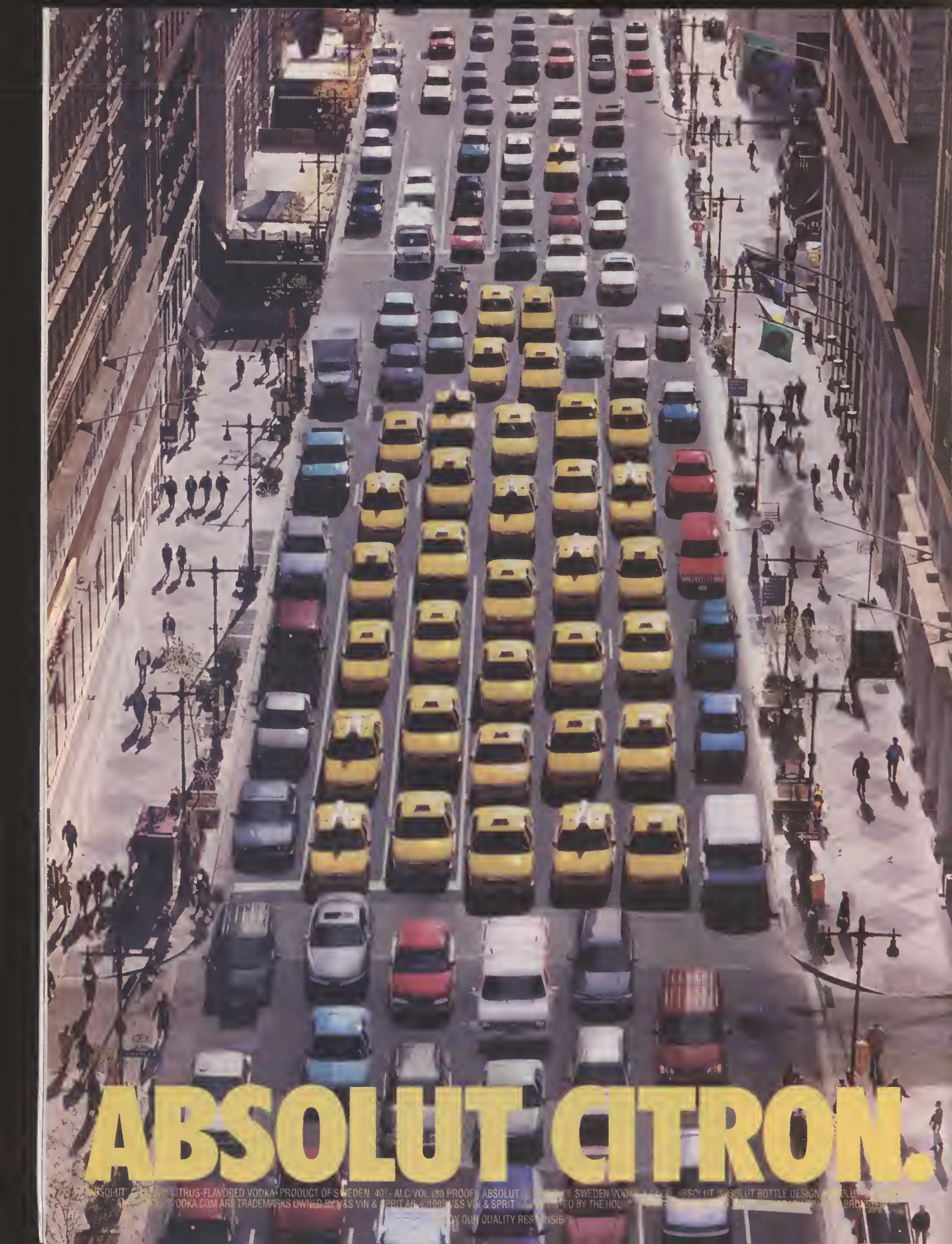
6. Left to right: Paul Shaffer, Chuck D, and Nile Rogers

7. DJ Rap

8. Aimee Mann and *Y-Life* publisher Andrew Kramer

9. David Bowie



An aerial photograph of a wide city street, likely in New York City, filled with a large formation of yellow taxis. The taxis are arranged in a grid-like pattern, filling most of the street lanes. Other vehicles, including cars and trucks, are visible on the street. Pedestrians are walking on the sidewalks, and tall city buildings line both sides of the street. The scene is captured from a high angle, looking down the length of the street.

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140



98

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INTERNET LIFE

FEATURES

88 GOLD STAR SITES HEALTH INFORMATION YOU CAN TRUST

By Catherine Calacanis

The best medical sites on the Net

98 SPECIAL REPORT: PRIVACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Illustration by Mark Rosenthal

100 NOWHERE TO HIDE

By Robert Scheer

Every click you take and every move you make, the Web is watching you

103 GLOBAL EAVESDROPPERS

By Jeff Howe

Nothing escapes the prying eyes and ears of the top-secret Echelon network

104 BIG BOSS IS WATCHING

By Jeff Howe

Be careful what you say around the virtual watercooler

108 THE INVISIBLE MAN

By Anonymous

It pays to mask your true identity online

112 COVER YOUR TRACKS

By Charles C. Mann

One surfer's efforts to fight off Net interlopers

116 THE WIRELESS WEB: PLEASE HOLD

By Gordon Bass

In the digital arena, Net-enabled mobile phones and organizers are mere featherweights

122 FALL ENTERTAINMENT PREVIEW

By Cree McCree

A sneak peek at this season's hottest Web shows

140 FREE KEVIN MITNICK! (OH, HE IS?)

By David Sheff

The ex-hacker and ex-convict comes clean



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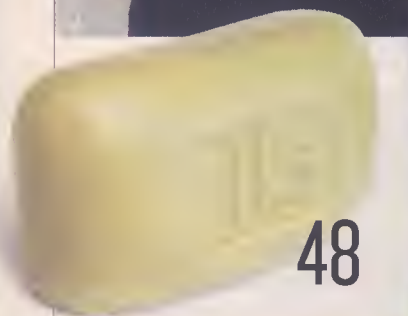
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CONTENTS

56



80



48



161



52

COLUMNS

62 ROGER EBERT CRITICAL EYE
My 2 cents about paying for content

64 JON KATZ INTERNET DOMAIN
Fans are forgotten in the Napster flap

DEPARTMENTS

10 EDITOR'S NOTE
In a hyperclick, we go from partying to privacy

25 BACKCHAT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
A mixed bag of responses from the mailbag

41 CLICK!
The Juice is loose online...Stephen King horrifies publishers...celebrity PalmPilots...the KISS of death...Big Apple's CowParade...R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe

66 CUT & PASTE
Why Apple software should not be used in nuclear facilities...why Mr. Lee wants to give birth...why downloading MP3 files is an act of communism

73 COOL TOOLS
Night-vision goggles from the former Soviet Union and computer speakers straight out of Whoville

76 TOUCHED BY THE NET
An interactive Web exhibit documents the hardships of refugee life

80 OLD WAY/NET WAY
Updating your address book, hunting for quotes, and ordering caviar

84 INCREDIBLY USEFUL SITES
Search public records, learn obscure words, research mutual funds, track your auction bids, and find out by how much you're being underpaid

180 PRETTY STRANGE
Fighting insidious clown porn, a club for really dull guys, and what your hair says about you

WEB GUIDE

147 NEW, NOTABLE & FUN REVIEWS
Worldwide travel bargains...commission-free trades...insect appreciation...the perfect cup of coffee...ghosts, vampires, and online covers

163 WEB USER
Speeding up your connection, keeping your software fresh, and undeleting lost files



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- Most-Creative-Site Costume
- Most-Resembles-the-Site Costume
- Wouldn't-Dare-Log-On-Site Costume

Entries will be judged by Y!IL and based on creativity and originality. Winners' photo entries will be featured in a future issue of Yahoo! Internet Life and win prizes from our generous sponsors including an Intel webcam from TeVeo.com! Log onto www.yil.com and hit the "Halloween Contest" button to see the other cool prizes you can win.

Here's how to enter:

Send us a photo of yourself dressed as your favorite website, dressed as your own website creation or check out the "P.S. Pretty Strange" page in this issue for other great costume ideas! Three winners will be selected, one from each of the following categories:

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Have a happy web-o-ween!



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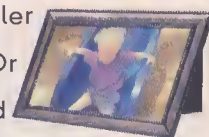


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BACKCHAT

OUR READERS WRITE THE WRONGS

LOVED YOUR COVER

What a beautiful cover for your August special online music issue! I have always been a big fan of Alanis Morissette. Thank you for featuring a real musician, someone who clearly thinks seriously about the state of music today. I also just read on CNN.com about the music awards concert you had in New York, at which she played. I'm sorry I missed it (I don't live in New York). Is there any way your readers can purchase advance tickets next time?

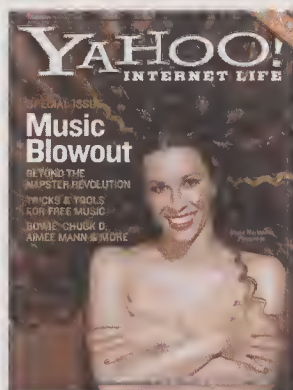
—Marilyn Pinker:
@excite.com

>>Sorry to say, we don't sell tickets to our awards show. But you can watch next year's festivities via our live Webcast, and you won't miss a note. —Ed.<<

MUSICIANS NEED TO EAT

While I generally buy your publication for the tremendous amount of information it provides in sections such as Incredibly Useful Sites and the Web Guide, sometimes I do enjoy articles such as the ones in your music issue. I especially liked "Sound Off" [August '00, page 100], the roundtable with the singers and other music professionals talking about Napster. It made me realize that what we see and read in the media—in this instance, how Napster is being unfairly attacked by the big music companies—is not always the truth. Musicians, even the highly paid ones, deserve to make a living too.

—Merle Webb:
@yahoo.com



MONEY FOR NOTHING AND SONGS FOR FREE

I just read your August issue and the articles on what's going on with Napster. As a member of the Napster music-sharing community, I feel I must respond. First of all, Napster is all about the music. Napster people are music lovers. I can't

put into words how exciting it is to find a favorite song so easily and then be able to listen to it whenever I want. Wow! CDs cost too much. Sixteen dollars? Forget it.

My second point is about all this copyright stuff. I don't see how copying songs for free is against the law. At one time or another, everyone has taped an album and given it to a friend. Napster is the same idea. If you had copied an album and sold it to your friend, then you'd be breaking the law. But sharing music is legal.

I love Metallica. They are one of the best bands ever, but this whole Napster lawsuit is a huge turnoff. They're being incredibly selfish. They're going to sue fans and possibly send them to jail? That's the



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BACKCHAT

best way I can think of to lose fans forever. Metallica will have their \$10 million and nothing else. I hope that Napster stays online. It's a good thing.

—Elizabeth Friedman:
@aol.com

GOOD MUSIC ON MP3.COM

I was a little disappointed at the way the music on MP3.com was portrayed in the article on Napster ["Confessions of a Napster Fanatic," July '00, page 110]. We're not all garage bands. Some of us are professional musicians, testing the waters of the Internet to see if we can get a handle on cybertunage before the record companies find a way to throttle it—as they have everything else—and keep most of the money for themselves.

The two happiest days in the lives of most successful musicians are the day they sign a contract with a label and the day that contract is over. Signing a contract is something I would probably not do again.

Why don't you take a listen at [www.mp3.com/thesinners] before condemning all music on MP3.com?

—Dewayne Henson:
@home.com

>> Actually, we didn't mean to say that all the acts on MP3.com are garage bands. (Besides, what's wrong with garage bands?) And while in our August issue we did opine that many users might find some of the music on MP3.com boring, especially if they're looking for free downloads of hit songs ["Free Your Music," page 119], we are big fans of MP3.com. In the same issue, we profiled several bands that have advanced their careers thanks to MP3.com ["Launching Pads," page 108]. Alanis Morissette, who is featured on our August cover, is an MP3.com proponent, and says so in the accompanying article [page 104]. Heck, we even nominated MP3.com for an Online Music Award [page 114] in the Best Overall Music Site category. And Red Delicious, one of MP3.com's most popular acts, won the award for Best Unsigned Artist Online. —Ed.<<

WHY I SWAP

I have been keeping up with the Napster music-downloading controversy, and I've noticed that the users are mostly depicted as college kids. I am a 30-year-old mother of three who uses swap sites extensively, and I sincerely hope that the music industry comes to its senses. With their anti-download rhetoric, all these musicians are

really doing is alienating their fans.

My primary use of swap sites is to download music for myself and my family that I haven't managed to purchase on disc yet. Note the word *yet*. And a lot of my downloads are of songs I own on cassette or—*gasp!*—vinyl.

Yes, there are some who use swap sites to avoid purchasing music. Those are the same people who buy blank cassettes and dub off the radio. Music sales are up, and the industry is making money, so in my opinion the music industry should stop crying over Napster.

—The Pirate Mother:
@linuxfreemail.com

FUNNY MONEY WITH A TWIST

I was enlightened by the article written by Allan Hoffman in the August issue ["Money Doesn't Grow on Beenz," page 124]. I have been bombarded with sites offering points, rewards, and money for shopping. I have signed up for many of them, thinking, "Why not get paid?" I agree with the author's conclusion that signing up is a long process and most of the sites have the same retailers or offers. Points from some sites have taken forever to get credited. They take so long that I have to keep a separate folder to track purchases versus credit points! I have subscribed to **YOYOMAIL.COM**, a money-earning e-mail service, but the e-mails are few and far between. Another e-mail service, **MILLIONAIREMAIL.COM**, offers links where you may win a prize, but you have to check them *daily*. I have never won anything.

On a more positive note, with **MYPOINTS** [mypoints.com] I was able to earn enough points over a period of one year to get a subscription to *Yahoo! Internet Life*!

—Salice Levy:
@visto.com

SITE QUESTIONED

I read "The Who Would You Kill? Game" in *Pretty Strange* [August '00, page 180], and I was shocked at the tasteless attitude you display in your magazine. Even if you consider this a "game," as you put it, are you aware of the violence in our society against teachers, and other public slaughters occurring almost daily? How can you in good conscience encourage a "game" of offing people in the entertainment industry? Will you accept the responsibility if some nut takes this seriously? I am most

area 51



disappointed, and I suspect others will share my concern.

—Richard Pelc:
@erie.net

>> Because the "deaths" in question are entirely fictionalized (that is, they would be happening to characters within the plot of a TV show), we felt that the site has more in common with fan fiction than with violent intent. Television characters are "killed off" routinely by car crashes, disease, or by simply moving away. The site in question is in no way an exhortation for its visitors to commit violence against any living thing. Rather, it is a place for readers to ponder and discuss which characters they'd prefer to have leave the show, and what would be the most fitting or ironic fate for them. —Ed.<<

COOKIES ARE CRUMMY

Regarding your August issue: In Web User, the Surf Guru [page 170] claims that those of us who are anti-cookie are paranoid. I disagree. Cookies steal space on one's hard drive. They also allow sites to gain information without the visitor's permission. What is really vile about cookies is that they are another opening for skilled hackers to either do damage or steal data. There is nothing benign about cookies. I do my best to boycott any site that insists I accept them. I use Amazon.com regularly, and the site seems to work fine without cookies.

—Ray Colton:
@worldnet.att.net

THE BEST OF INTENTIONS

I am a fan of *Y-Life* and have found it to be entertaining, informative, and generally useful as a reference. I've had no reason to take exception to any of your articles—even though I might not necessarily agree with them—until the August issue and the article by Alissa Quart, "Scam of the Ages" [page 140].

A quote from the second paragraph: "He loved the PC's bright color monitor." I am a senior (almost 70), and I must point out that we (most of us, anyway) do not sit drooling in front of the monitor looking at the pretty colors until someone who has a grasp on reality can happen by and help us.

The author refers to the National Consumer League and states that of the 10,000 complaints about online fraud received by the organization, almost 20 percent were filed by people aged 50 to 69. Should we consider folks in their fifties "seniors" in need of protection? Please!

SITE GAG

BY MICK STEVENS



"HI! WHAT DID YOU LEARN ON THE NET TODAY?"

Further, in one of my rare lucid moments it occurred to me that if "almost 20 percent" of the complaints were from seniors, then over 80 percent of the complaints would be from those who are *not* seniors.

Anyway, thanks for the good intentions, if that is what prompted the article!

—Larry V. Streepy:
@lvcm.com

THE TEMPTATION OF DOWNLOADING

It's unfortunate that Jon Katz kept jumping from "ideas" to "copyright" without clearly defining the two concepts ["In the Digital Age, Who Owns Ideas?," July '00, page 66]. To ask, as he did, "Who owns ideas in the 21st century?" is beside the point, since the 20th-century answer is still valid. Ideas are a dime a dozen and, rightly so, cannot be copyrighted. Only the tangible expression of an idea is eligible for copyright protection.

For example, the text of a story or article, a drawing, painting, or photograph can be afforded protection from unauthorized copying. Katz should have known that copyright is still valid in spite of the proliferation of text and images on the Internet. To copy someone else's intellectual

property is illegal and, more to the point, a cowardly method of benefiting from another's labor. It certainly requires little effort to download text and images from the Net. But if the owner of that property posts a notice that it should not be done, are there any honest people who will obey? *That* is the burning question of the 21st century.

The dilemma may be one of manners and ethics rather than anything concerning legal requirements. How do your readers behave when faced with those choices?

—George Dunbar:
@idirect.com

SITTING ON THE DOCK OF EBAY

Your item on eBay's "hands-off" policy was way off base [Click! News, August '00, page 40]. I have been selling items at online auctions professionally for over a year now, and I have never known eBay to be hands-off. Have you forgotten the painting fiasco of not too long ago? Some guy tried to sell an oil painting, and eBay freaked when the price got too high—all because no one knew for sure who had painted it, including the seller, who admitted as much. I have had items removed, without refund, because one person complained. I was selling used videotapes, and someone insisted

that one of them wasn't commercially released, so all of the tapes, new and used, were removed.

It's useless to lodge a complaint, since all you receive from eBay is a "That's our policy, too bad..." form letter.

—K. Hough:
@yahoo.com

HANDY GUIDE

I read the reader's complaints about the Site Address Guide in Backchat ["Sites for Sore Eyes (and Readers)," August '00, page 26]. I want you to know that I love it! I remove it from the magazine and mark it as I read about something I might be interested in seeing. I keep the guides separate from the old magazines. All guides are clearly marked with the date and page number, so if I want more info I can quickly find the article. Please, don't change a thing!

—Emtret:
@freei.net

X-BOXING

Thanks for the article on the new Microsoft X-Box, due in 2001 ["The X File Opens," July '00, page 52]. I don't know how else to get the word to the gaming system manufacturers, but I just want to let them know that it would be wonderful if someone came up with a game system capable of playing *all* games made by that manufacturer—a new Dreamcast, say, that would play games from other Genesis systems that were all on CD. And wouldn't it be stupendous if someone came out with a game system that could play other manufacturers' games?

When I was a mere child, I had an Atari 2600. When the 3200 came out, Atari made a little adapter that allowed you to play your 2600 games; then they made another adapter that allowed you to play other manufacturers' games that had similarly shaped cartridges. Wow—it was incredible!

Were there a game system manufacturer willing to come up with the technology to do this nowadays, imagine how many people would be willing to buy that console, and any adaptive software or cards or whatever to be able to play their old games, games from other systems, etc. It would be so liberating!

—Melanie Fletcher:
@yahoo.com

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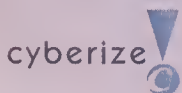


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A TEAR-OUT INDEX OF THE URLS IN THIS ISSUE

FEATURES

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- **HEALTH ON THE NET FOUNDATION** [www.hon.ch]
- **IHC: INTERNET HEALTHCARE COALITION** [ihealthcoalition.org]
- **VIPPS** [nabp.net/vipps/intro.asp]
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- **NATIONAL INST. OF HEALTH** [www.nih.gov]
- **DRUGSTORE.COM** [drugstore.com]
- **PLANETRX.COM** [planetrx.com]

THE INVISIBLE MAN (PAGES 108-110)

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- **EWATCH** [ewatch.com]
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COVER YOUR TRACKS (PAGES 112-114)

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- **SHIELOS UP!** [grc.com]
- **SALON.COM** [salon.com]
- **OPTOUT** [grc.com/optout.htm]

SECURE YOURSELF (PAGES 114)

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- **ANONYMIZER.COM** [anonymizer.com]
- **DOUBLECLICK PRIVACY & OPT-OUT** [doubleclick.net/company_info/about_doubleclick/privacy/privacy2.htm]
- **SHIELDS UP!** [grc.com]
- **JUNKBUSTERS** [junkbusters.com]
- **ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION** [eff.org]
- **ELECTRONIC PRIVACY INFORMATION CENTER** [epic.org]
- **SITE SEEING ON THE INTERNET** [www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/online/sitesee]
- **CNET DOWNLOAO.COM** [download.com]

THE WIRELESS WEB: PLEASE HOLD (PAGES 116-118)

- **MOTOROLA** [motorola.com]
- **OMNISKY** [omnisky.com]
- **FILMCRTIC.COM** [filmcritic.com]
- **ADL** [aol.com]
- **YAHOO!** [yahoo.com]
- **AMAZON.COM** [amazon.com]
- **MAPQUEST** [mapquest.com]
- **BARNES & NOBLE.COM** [bn.com]
- **EBAY** [ebay.com]
- **MOVIEFONE** [moviefone.com]
- **CBS MARKETWATCH** [marketwatch.com]

FALL ENTERTAINMENT PREVIEW (PAGES 122-138)

- **7TH PORTAL** [www.stanlee.net]
- **THE EXORCIST** [theexorcist.net]
- **ANITA BDMBA** [wildbrain.com]
- **BAD VLAD** [distantcorners.com]
- **PROTECTOR OF THE HOOD** [www.stanlee.net]
- **MARVEL.COM** [marvel.com]
- **NEW BLOOD** [distantcorners.com]
- **ROLAND 99** [scifi.com]
- **THE X-FILES** [thexfiles.com]
- **SOUTH PARK HALLOWEEN 2000 CONTEST AND CHAT** [comedycentral.com]
- **AUDIBLE.COM COMEDY** [audible.com]
- **CLINTON CHRONICLES** [mediatrip.com]
- **VIRTUALLY FUNNY WILL OURST** [aentv.com/willdurst]
- **ZOMBIE COLLEGE** [icebox.com]
- **THE SIMPSONS** [thesimpsons.com]
- **ALLY MCBEAL** [fox.com]
- **X-LAX MEN** [entertainment.com]
- **DAX** [shockwave.com]
- **O'GRAOY HIGHT** [shockwave.com]

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DAILY POWER DOWNLOAD Playful and practical shareware daily [www.doubledownload.com]

ASK THE SURF GURU You've got questions; he's got answers [www.surf-guru.com]

PRETTY STRANGE Sites your mother warned you about [www.prettystrange.com]

YOUR YASTROLOGER Your daily Net horoscope [www.yastrologer.com]

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NET ESSENTIALS The bookmarks you must have [www.yil.com/essentials]

- **EDWARD THE LESS** [scifi.com]
- **THE INTRUDER** [toonami.com]
- **THE INTRUDER** [cartoonnetwork.com]
- **102 DALMATIANS** [102dalmatians.com]
- **PIKI & POKO** [mondmedia.com]
- **REAL SCARY STORIES** [realscarystories.com]
- **TIMBERWOLF** [entertainment.com]
- **JOE PARADISE** [wildbrain.com]
- **KOZIK'S INFERNO** [wildbrain.com]
- **ROMANOV** [wildbrain.com]
- **THE MONSTERS IN MY TUMMY** [monsters.z.com]
- **MY VHI MUSIC AWARDS** [vhl.com]
- **BEHIND THE MUSIC THAT SUCKS** [heavy.com]
- **HEAVY METAL GUY** [mondmedia.com]
- **ALMOST FAMOUS** [almost-famous.com]
- **DANCER IN THE DARK** [www.dancerinthedarkmovie.com]
- **ENTERTAINMENT'S LIVE CONCERT SERIES** [entertainment.com]
- **JAZZ** [pbs.org/jazz]
- **BARNES & NOBLE TELEVISION** [bn.com/community/bntv]
- **NAPOLEON** [pbs.org/empires/napoleon]
- **HISTORY IQ** [historychannel.com]

IF A SITE WON'T LOAD, TRY TYPING WWW. BEFORE THE URL.

- ☐ **GHOSTLY HOMES OF CHARLESTON** [hgtv.com]
- ☐ **WILD CALIFORNIA** [travel.discovery.com]
- ☐ **UNWRAPPED: THE MYSTERIOUS WORLD OF MUMMIES** [tlc.discovery.com]
- ☐ **INSIDE THE SPACE STATION** [discovery.com]
- ☐ **CYBER BOND** [rbssuperstation.com]
- ☐ **UNBREAKABLE** [areyouunbreakable.com]
- ☐ **TOTALLY TUBE** [online.com]
- ☐ **EYADA GOSSIP SUMMIT** [eyada.com]
- ☐ **MOTHER MAY I CONTROL MY OWN CONSCIOUSNESS?** [culturejam.com]
- ☐ **360 DEGREES FORWARD** [atomfilms.com]
- ☐ **RESFEST 2000** [resfest.com]
- ☐ **OUNGEONS AND DRAGONS: THE MOVIE** [dndmovie.com]
- ☐ **MODERN HUMORIST** [modernhumorist.com]
- ☐ **CAMP CHAOS** [campchaos.com]
- ☐ **KATBOT** [katbot.com]
- ☐ **BLAIR WITCH 2: THE BOOK OF SHADOWS** [www.blairwitch.com]
- ☐ **TIMMY BIGHANOS** [timmybighands.com]
- ☐ **DIRECT EFFECT (DFX)** [mtv.com]
- ☐ **FREAKYLINKS** [freakylinks.com]
- ☐ **OCCULTRESEARCH.COM** [occultresearch.com]
- ☐ **SHOCKWAVE.COM** [shockwave.com]
- ☐ **ANTEYE** [anteye.com]
- ☐ **PSEUDO** [pseudo.com]
- ☐ **ENTERTAINDOM** [entertaindom.com]
- ☐ **ICEBOX** [icebox.com]
- ☐ **DISTANT CORNERS** [distantcorners.com]
- ☐ **POP.COM** [pop.com]
- ☐ **Z** [z.com]
- ☐ **SPUMCO** [spumco.com]
- ☐ **SHOWTIME** [sho.com]
- ☐ **SCIFI.COM** [scifi.com]
- ☐ **GETCONNECTED** [getconnected.com]
- ☐ **WILDBRAIN.COM** [wildbrain.com]
- ☐ **IFILM** [ifilm.com]
- ☐ **RADISKULL & DEVIL OOLL!** [shockwave.com]

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- ☐ **FREE KEVIN** [freekevin.com]
- ☐ **2600** [2600.com]

COLUMNS

ROGER EBERT: CRITICAL EYE (PAGE 62)

- ☐ **APBNEWS.COM** [apbnews.com]
- ☐ **FASTV.COM** [fastv.com]
- ☐ **REEL.COM** [reel.com]
- ☐ **RADIODIGEST.COM** [radiodigest.com]
- ☐ **BOO.COM** [boo.com]
- ☐ **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL** [wsj.com]
- ☐ **OANNI'S HARD DRIVE** [danni.com]
- ☐ **AMAZON.COM** [amazon.com]
- ☐ **EBAY** [ebay.com]
- ☐ **USEIT.COM** [useit.com]
- ☐ **JIM ROMENESKO'S MEOIANEWS** [poynter.org/medianews]
- ☐ **INSIDE** [inside.com]
- ☐ **REUTERS** [reuters.com]
- ☐ **SALON.COM** [salon.com]
- ☐ **SLATE** [slate.com]
- ☐ **THE HOT BUTTON BY OAVIO POLAND** [roughcut.com/today/hot.button]
- ☐ **TV BARN** [tvbarn.com]

JON KATZ: INTERNET DOMAIN (PAGE 64)

- ☐ **NAPSTER** [napster.com]
- ☐ **GNUTELLA** [gnutella.wego.com]
- ☐ **SCOUR** [scour.net]
- ☐ **FREENET PROJECT** [freenet.sourceforge.net]

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CLICK! (PAGE 41)

- ☐ **THE PALACE OF PRINCESS LEELEE** [clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/thepalaceofprincessleee]
- ☐ **JUST SPIT** [geocities.com/kittierox]
- ☐ **HEATH LEDGER'S DOMAIN** [members.tripod.com/happysandler]
- ☐ **LORD OF THE FLIES** [gerenser.com/lotf]

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- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL STEPHEN KING WEB PRESENCE** [stephenking.com]
- ☐ **IPUBLISH.COM** [ipublish.com]
- ☐ **@RANOOM** [atrandom.com]

- ☐ **GOOD/GRIEF** [joshkoppel.com]
- ☐ **ELECTRONIC LITERATURE ORGANIZATION** [eliterature.org]
- ☐ **INSTITUTE FOR WAR & PEACE REPORTING** [www.iwpr.net]
- ☐ **HSX.COM** [hsx.com]
- ☐ **DREAMWORKS DIGITAL** [dreamworksdigital.com]
- ☐ **PAY.GOV** [pay.gov]
- ☐ **BACH DIGITAL** [www.bachdigital.org]
- ☐ **TOYSMART.COM** [toysmart.com]
- ☐ **DOUBLECLICK** [doubleclick.com]
- ☐ **PHONE.COM** [phone.com]
- ☐ **DEJA.COM** [deja.com]
- ☐ **CLAUDIASCHIFFER.COM** [claudiaschiffer.com]
- ☐ **STING** [sting.com]
- ☐ **JETHROTULL.COM** [jethrotull.com]
- ☐ **JETHRO-TULL.COM** [jethro-tull.com]
- ☐ **HOLEMUSIC.COM** [holemusic.com]

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- ☐ **RADIOHEAD** [www.radiohead.co.uk]
- ☐ **GREEN PLASTIC RADIOHEAD** [greenplastic.com]
- ☐ **FOLLOW ME AROUND** [followmearound.com]
- ☐ **THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART** [metmuseum.org]
- ☐ **THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY** [www.nyhistory.org]
- ☐ **COWPARADE** [cowparade.org]
- ☐ **VIN SCELAS'S LIVE AT LUNCH** [artistent.com]
- ☐ **SANDRADIO** [comedyworld.com/listen/shows/?doc=SANDRadio]
- ☐ **ABDUL THE GREAT** [violetcrown.com/abdul/abdulsmovie.htm]
- ☐ **MUSIC VIDEOS** [launch.com/music/watch]
- ☐ **PRESIDENT CLINTON: FINAL OAYS** [adcritic.com/content/president-clinton-final-days.html]
- ☐ **TALKBACK LIVE** [cnn.com/chat]
- ☐ **WOMEN AND THE WEB** [www.zdvt.com/zdvt/interact/chatwithus/story/0,6924,2123895,00.html]

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- ☐ **BLISSWORLD** [blissspa.com]
- ☐ **BELLEMART** [bellemart.com]



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- **MENSTOYS.COM** [menstoy.com]
- **FREESHIPPING.COM** [freeshipping.com]
- **EBAY** [ebay.com]
- **LYCOS** [lycos.com]

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- **UPROAR** [uproar.com]
- **HAPPY PUPPY** [happypuppy.com]
- **KISS PSYCHO CIRCUS: THE NIGHTMARE CHILO** [kisspsychocircus.com]
- **MYSTERYNET.COM** [mysterynet.com]
- **PDA GAMES** [pdagames.com]
- **ZAPSPOT** [zapspot.com]
- **GAME MUSIC ONLINE** [gamemusic.com]

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- **WETFEET.COM** [wetfeet.com]
- **TRADEUPS.COM** [tradeups.com]
- **PALM STORE** [palmorder.modusmedia.com]
- **EFAX.COM** [efax.com]
- **MESSAGECLICK** [messageclick.com]
- **ONEBOX.COM** [onebox.com]
- **TELEBOT** [telebot.com]
- **UREACH.COM** [ureach.com]

CLICK! STYLE (PAGE 54)

- **BOING DISH** [benzadesign.com/products_boing.html]
- **NEON SLINKY** [etoys.com/toy/g/product/101/11/32]
- **POP PAD TRIVET** [pure-design.com/shop/accessories]
- **WHITE-AND-ORANGE BARNOTES MINI NOTEPADS** [fredflare.com/catalog/geo/barnotes.html]
- **BLUDOT 20: 3D LETTER HOLDER** [netsetgoods.com]
- **6-CENT CURTISS JENNY STAMP** [www.championstamp.com]
- **BOYLAN'S ORANGE SODA** [store.yahoo.com/soda-pop/boylansorange.html]

CLICK! WEB TRACKS (PAGE 56)

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- **RSUB** [rsub.com]

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- **ASKOJ.COM** [askoj.com]

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- **MEDIA METRIX** [mediamatrix.com]
- **USA TODAY** [usatoday.com]
- **YAHOO! CHAT** [chat.yahoo.com]
- **AMAZON.COM** [amazon.com]
- **ATOMFILMS** [atomfilms.com]
- **PALMGEAR H.Q.** [palmgear.com]
- **AVANTGO** [avantgo.com]
- **SWITCHHOUSE** [switchhouse.com]
- **NMC** [netmusiccountdown.com]
- **CDDDB** [cddb.com]
- **ZONET: DOWNLOADS** [www.hotfiles.com]
- **ARTNET.COM** [artnet.com]
- **LYCOS** [lycos.com]
- **E! ONLINE** [eonline.com]
- **STARCHEFS** [starchefs.com]

COOL TOOLS (PAGES 73-74)

- **HARMAN/KARDON** [harman-multimedia.com]
- **AVANTGAROE-USA** [avantgardeusa.com]
- **BLUEROOM LOUDSPEAKERS LTD.** [www.minipod.com]
- **NIGHT OWL OPTICS** [nightowlptics.com]
- **SAMSUNG** [samsungusa.com]
- **INTEL** [intel.com]

TOUCHED BY THE NET (PAGES 76-78)

- **REFUGEECAMP.ORG** [refugeecamp.org]
- **HALFTHEPLANET.COM** [halftheplanet.com]
- **HERBMEQ** [amfoundation.org/herbmed.htm]
- **COMMUNITY JUSTICE EXCHANGE** [communityjustice.org]
- **HOTBRAILLE.COM** [hotbraille.com]

OLD WAY/NET WAY (PAGES 80-82)

- **YAHOO! ADDRESS BOOK** [address.yahoo.com]
- **QUOTATIONS FROM CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG** [art-bin.com/art/omaotoc.html]
- **CAVIARTERIA** [caviarteria.com]
- **TAVOLO** [tavolo.com]

INCREDIBLY USEFUL SITES

(PAGES 84-86)

- **SEARCH SYSTEMS** [pac-info.com]
- **SALARY.COM** [salary.com]
- **CALVERT GROUP INDIVIDUAL INVESTORS: KNOW WHAT YOU OWN** [calvert.com/investor/ind-sri-know.html]

- **LI LEARNING: DICTIONARY OF DIFFICULT WORDS** [www.lineone.net/dictionaryof/difficultwords]
- **TASTINGS.COM** [tastings.com]
- **PERSONALOGIC DECISION GUIDES** [www.personalogic.com]
- **CONSUMERSEARCH** [consumersearch.com]
- **YOURLOCKBOX.COM** [yourlockbox.com]
- **WEATHER.COM: FALL FOLIAGE** [www.weather.com/outdoors/fall]
- **AUCTIONTAMER** [auctiontamer.com]
- **EARTHNAVIGATOR 3.0** [earthnavigator.com]
- **MIXMEISTER 2.0** [mixmeister.com]

PRETTY STRANGE (PAGE 180)

- **THE SEMIOTICS OF HAIR** [www.artfink.demon.co.uk/chap/wigs/frame.html]
- **NAPKIN.ORG** [napkin.org]
- **THE FLAT EARTH FAQ** [www.flat-earth.org/platygea/faq.mhtml]
- **STOP CLOWN PORN NOW** [stopclownpornnow.org]
- **DULL MEN'S CLUB** [dullmen.com]

WEB GUIDE

NEW, NOTABLE & FUN (PAGES 148-149)

- **CALENDARLIVE** [calendarlive.com]
- **EPITONIC** [epitonic.com/video]
- **WARNER BROS. ONLINE** [wb.com]
- **DIGSMAGAZINE.COM** [digsmagazine.com]
- **ANTIMONY & LACE** [threethirteen.net/lace]
- **ANGRYMAN.COM** [angryman.com]
- **SAVE THEM GOLDFISH!** [ecampus.com/arcade/goldfish.html]
- **ECAMPUS.COM** [ecampus.com]
- **EMOOE** [www.emode.com]
- **THE FANTASTIC IN ART AND FICTION** [rmc2.library.cornell.edu/fantastic]
- **OBEY GIANT** [andrethegiant.com]
- **WRITING FOR THE WEB** [emilyv.com]
- **CAREERJOURNAL** [careerjournal.com]
- **KIOCIITY STICKER WORLD** [www.stickerworld.org]
- **PLANETPALS EARTHZONE** [planetpals.com]
- **IAGORA.COM** [iagora.com]
- **IIE PASSPORT: LIVING AND LEARNING ABROAD** [iiepassport.org]
- **TICKETPLANET.COM** [ticketplanet.com]

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ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS

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- **FRIEDRICH WILHELM MURNAU**
[internettrash.com/users/murnau/
murneng.htm]
- **FANGS FOR THE MEMORIES**
[houseofhorrors.com/vampires.htm]
- **HAMMERWEB** [hammerfilms.com]
- **COUNT GORE OE VOL PRESENTS
CREATURE FEATURE** [countgore.com]
- **THE OFFICIAL STEPHEN KING WEB
PRESENCE** [stephenking.com]
- **OEAN KOONTZ: THE OFFICIAL WEB SITE**
[randomhouse.com/features/koontz]
- **LOST SOULS: CLIVE BARKER'S OFFICIAL
WEB SITE** [clivebarker.com]
- **THE SHAOOWLANOS: GHOSTS &
HAUNTINGS** [theshadowlands.net/ghost]
- **THE GHOSTWATCHER** [ghostwatcher.com]
- **GHOSTSTUDY.COM** [ghoststudy.com]

MONEY & SHOPPING (PAGES 152-153)

- **HALLOWEEN MART** [halloweenmart.com]
- **SPOOKSHOWS.COM** [spookshows.com]
- **VINTAGE HALLOWEEN MASKS** [www.
retroactive.com/sept97/hawmasks.html]
- **CONSUMER WORLD** [consumerworld.org]
- **FIGHT BACK!** [fightback.com]
- **CLARKHOWARD.COM** [clarkhoward.com]
- **CONSUMER REPORTS** [consumerreports.org]
- **BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU** [bbb.org]
- **ECOMPLAINTS.COM** [ecomplaints.com]
- **HEOGEHOG INVESTMENT CHALLENGE**
[www.investorfactory.com/hedge-hog]
- **THE INTERNET STOCK CHALLENGE**
[stockchallenge.internet.com]
- **MAINXCHANGE** [mainxchange.com]
- **MG FINANCIAL GROUP OEMO CONTEST**
[mgforex.com/demo/default.asp?
loc=DemoContest]
- **HSX.COM** [hsx.com]
- **WALL STREET SPORTS**
[wallstreetsports.com]

TRAVEL & RECREATION (PAGES 154-155)

- **GOLFONLINE** [golfonline.com]
- **GOLF.COM** [golf.com]
- **GOLF LINK** [golfink.com]
- **PGATOUR.COM AND GOLF WEB**
[golfweb.com]
- **BAO GOLF MONTHLY.COM**
[badgolfmonthly.com]

- **CUBA** [cubanadventures.com]
- **CUBA TOURS NETWORK**
[cubatoursnet.org]
- **CUBA: CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET**
[travel.state.gov/cuba.html]
- **CUBA: TRAVEL, BIBLIOGRAPHY,
HISTORY, PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE
PROGRAMS** [bike.org/bikecuba]
- **AFROCUBAWEB** [afrocubaweb.com]
- **HISTORY CHANNEL TRAVELER**
[historytraveler.com]
- **COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG** [history.org]
- **NPS: LINKS TO THE PAST**
[www.cr.nps.gov/colherit.htm]
- **HISTORIC HOTELS OF AMERICA**
[nthp.org/main/hotels/hotelsmain.htm]

LIFESTYLE & COMMUNITY (PAGE 156)

- **COFFEE REVIEW** [coffeereview.com]
- **SMELLTHECOFFEE.COM**
[smellthecoffee.com]
- **FAIR TRADE COFFEE CAMPAIGN**
[globalexchange.org/economy/coffee]
- **TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN** [tmcm.com]
- **AJR NEWSLINK** [ajr.newslink.org/news.html]
- **MERCURY CENTER** [mercurycenter.com]
- **BOULEVAROS** [boulevards.com]
- **THE VILLAGE VOICE** [villagevoice.com]
- **NOLA LIVE** [nola.com]

LEARNING & CREATIVITY (PAGES 158-161)

- **THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF INSECTS**
[earthlife.net/insects]
- **BUGBIOS: SHAMLESS PROMOTION OF
INSECT APPRECIATION** [bugbios.com]
- **USGS: BUTTERFLIES OF NORTH
AMERICA** [www.npwrc.usgs.gov/
resource/distr/lepid/bflyusa/bflyusa.htm]
- **MANTIPOLIS: A MOTHERSHIP FOR THE
MANTOPHILE** [home5.inet.tele.dk/crypto]
- **INSECT SOUND WORLD: SONGS OF
CRICKETS AND KATYDIDS FROM JAPAN**
[www.asahi-net.or.jp/~UN6K-HSMT/
English/ENGindex.htm]
- **OXFORD UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE CEN-
TRE** [info.ox.ac.uk/departments/langcentre]
- **LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES
ONLINE** [www.edgamesandart.com/
foreignlanguages.html]
- **JENNIFER'S LANGUAGE PAGE**
[elite.net/~runner/jennifers]
- **FOREIGN LANGUAGES FOR TRAVELERS**
[travlang.com/languages]
- **YOURDICTIONARY.COM**
[yourdictionary.com]

- **HANDSPEAK** [handspeak.com]

WEB USER

FIND IT (PAGE 163)

- **ZDNET: UPDATES.COM** [updates.zdnet.com]
- **WWW.VERSIONS.COM** [versions.com]
- **CNET: CATCHUP.COM** [catchup.com]
- **OCTOPUS** [octopus.com]
- **ONEPAGE** [onepage.com]
- **ACCOUNTMINDER.COM**
[accountminder.com]
- **QUICKBROWSE.COM** [quickbrowse.com]
- **WEBSPLIT.COM** [websplit.com]
- **TEVEO** [teveo.com]
- **DOUBLECLICK PRIVACY: OPT-OUT**
[doubleclick.com/optout/default.asp]

LEARN IT (PAGE 164)

- **MSN COMPUTING CENTRAL: BANO-
WIDTH SPEED TEST** [computingcentral.
msn.com/topics/bandwidth/speedtest50.asp]
- **DU METER** [hageltech.com/dumeter]
- **EASYMTU** [easymtu.tripod.com/easymtu]
- **LINE NOISE TESTING PROCEDURES**
[help.ibm.net/help/lib/tlcoinfo.html]

TRY IT (PAGE 165)

- **ZAPSTATION** [zapstation.com]
- **SPUMCO** [spumco.com]
- **ICEBOX** [icebox.com]
- **WALLPAPER CHANGER**
[wallpaperchanger.de]
- **C4U** [c-4-u.com]
- **OBONGO** [www.obongo.com]

SEARCH ALERT (PAGE 166)

- **GOOGLE** [google.com]
- **INKTOMI** [www.inktomi.com]
- **MSN SEARCH** [search.msn.com]
- **IWON** [iwon.com]
- **HOTBOT** [hotbot.com]
- **FAST SEARCH** [alltheweb.com]
- **IXQUICK** [ixquick.com]
- **SEARCH ENGINE WATCH**
[searchenginewatch.com]
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Now you can trade in any brand Intel® Pentium® PC toward the purchase of a new PC,¹ like one of our all-new portables. They're thin and light so wherever you are, you can get more out of technology. See, at Gateway, People Rule. Visit us at www.gateway.com today. Pictured above, the Solo® 5300 (left), Solo 1150 (right) and Solo 9300 (top).

¹ Gateway will give you the average wholesale value for your Pentium PC in good condition using the then-current Orion Blue Book or similarly reasonable standard as determined by Gateway. Other terms and conditions apply. Call for details.


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\$1399 or as low as \$39/mo.
(APR 14.9%) for 48 mos.⁴

with Gateway Cyber:)Ware

Three-and-one-half hour "Getting Started Course" (Instructor-led training at a Gateway Country store⁵), Twelve-month Gateway Online Training Subscription, Getting Started Guide - \$129



Gateway Solo 5300CL

14.1" XGA TFT Color Display • Intel® Pentium® III Processor 650MHz • 64MB SDRAM • 6GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive • 24X max/10X min CD-ROM Drive • V.90 56K² Modem • 2X AGP 3-D S3 Savage IX w/8MB SGRAM • Microsoft Windows Millennium Edition • MS Works Suite 2000 Software • 1-Year AOL Internet Access³

\$1999 or as low as \$56/mo.
(APR 14.9%) for 48 mos.⁴

with Digital Photo Workshop

Digital Camera, CorelDRAW™ 9 Software, Corel Print House™ Magic, Corel Print Office™ Premium Photo Paper, Three-hour "Using Your PC With Digital Photography" Course (Instructor-led training at a Gateway Country store⁵), Getting Started Guide - \$449



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(APR 14.9%) for 48 mos.⁴

with Digital Creator Pack

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1. Gateway will give you the average wholesale value for your Pentium PC in good condition using the then-current Union Blue Book or similarly reasonable standard as determined by Gateway. Other terms and conditions apply. Call for details.
2. Maximum data transfer rate dependent upon variables, including particular modems with which you are communicating, telephone lines, communications software and communications protocols.

of any one of our custom-built systems shown here:¹



Gateway™ Performance 933

Intel Pentium III Processor 933MHz • 128MB PC133 SDRAM • EV700 17" Monitor (15.9" viewable) • 32MB NVIDIA™ RIVA TNT2™ 4X AGP Graphics Accelerator • 30GB UATA100 7200 RPM Hard Drive • 16X DVD-ROM Drive • Sound Blaster® Live!™ Value Card • Boston Acoustics® BA735™ Speakers • 56K² PCI Voice Modem • Microsoft Windows Millennium Edition • MS Works Suite 2000 Software • 1-Year AOL Internet Access³

\$1999 or as low as \$56/mo.
(APR 14.9%) for 48 mos.⁴

with Extreme Audio Pack

CD-RW (CD Rewritable) Drive, CD Stomper Pro Labeling Kit, Nomad II Digital Audio Player, MusicMatch Jukebox Plus Software, Three-hour "Using Your PC to Explore Digital Music" Course (Instructor-led training at a Gateway Country store⁵), Getting Started Guide - \$429



Gateway Essential 733

Intel Pentium III Processor 733MHz • 64MB SDRAM • EV700 17" Monitor (15.9" viewable) • Intel® 3-D Graphics • 15GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive • 48X max/20X min CD-ROM Drive • Enhanced Audio • Boston Acoustics® BA265™ Speakers • 56K² PCI Voice Modem • Microsoft Windows Millennium Edition • MS Works Suite 2000 Software • 1-Year AOL Internet Access³ • Free Microsoft Reference and Productivity Bundle (through 9/17/00)

\$1199 or as low as \$34/mo.
(APR 14.9%) for 48 mos.⁴

with Electronic Photo Album

Visioneer® OneTouch™ 7600 USB Scanner, CD-RW (CD-Rewritable Drive), Corel Print House Magic, Corel Print Office, CD Stomper Pro Labeling Kit, Three-hour "Using Your PC With Digital Photography" Course (Instructor-led training at a Gateway Country store⁵), Getting Started Guide - \$349



Gateway Profile™ 2 CX

15.1" XGA TFT Color Display • Intel Celeron Processor 500MHz • 64MB SDRAM • 20GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive • 6X DVD-ROM Drive • 56K² Modem • MS Windows 98 Second Edition • MS Works Suite 99 Software

\$1899 or as low as \$53/mo.
(APR 14.9%) for 48 mos.⁴

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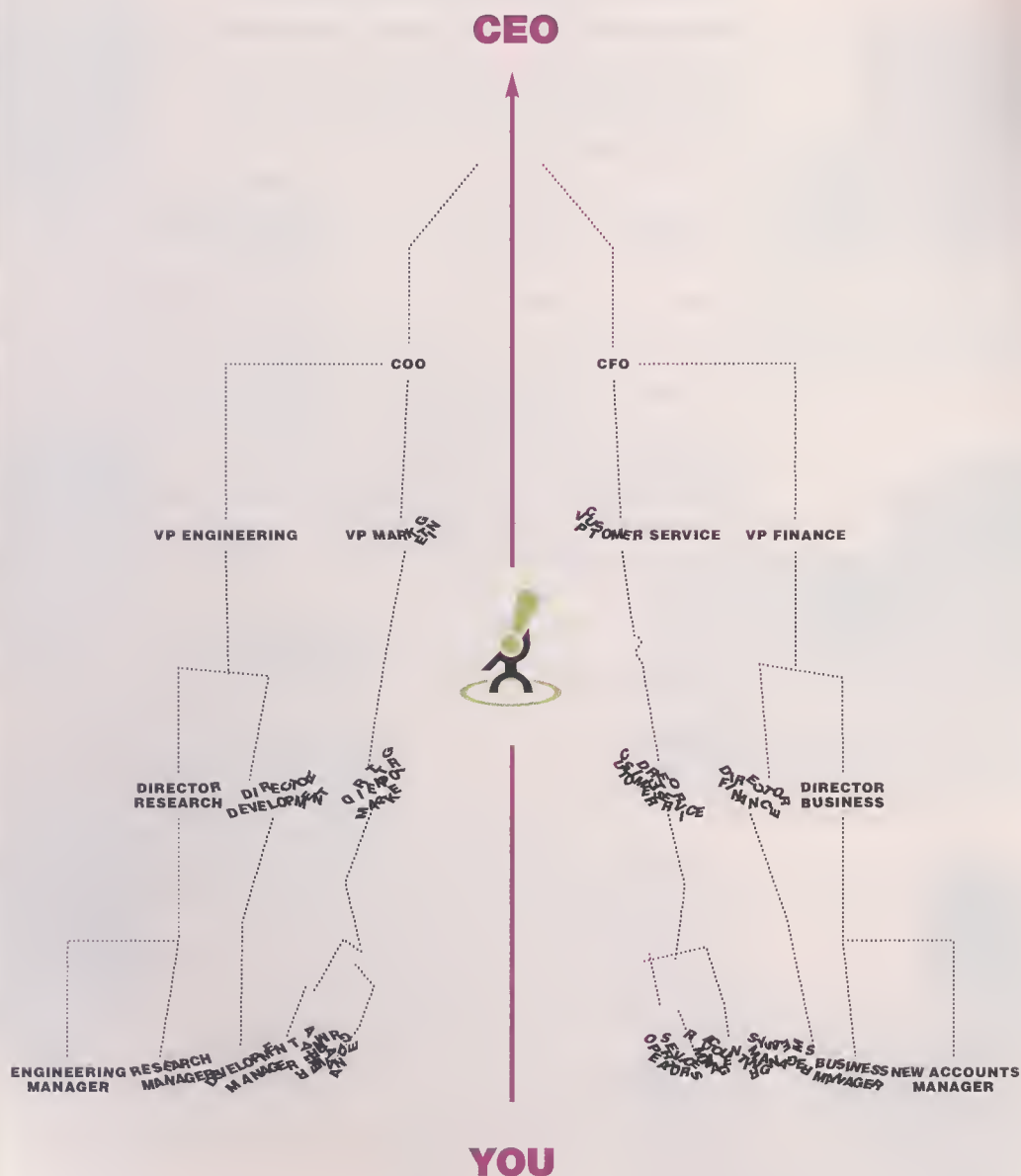
³ TO AVOID BEING CHARGED A MONTHLY FEE, CANCEL BEFORE ONE-YEAR PERIOD ENDS. One-year period begins 30 days from receipt of system. You may incur surcharges even during promotional period for premium services, or long distance charges on your phone bill, depending on location and calling plan. Communication surcharges may also apply with some access numbers and in AK. Non-local access via 1-800-846-6933 10¢ per minute. New U.S. members only. Major credit card or checking account required. Use may be limited, especially during peak usage. For details, call 1-800-846-2000.

⁴ Payment based on 48 mos. 14.9% APR for qualified customers. Max APR 28%. Not all customers will qualify. Excludes shipping and handling and taxes. Minimum FINANCE CHARGE \$1.00.

⁵ Prices and courses subject to change without notice. Prices exclude any applicable sales tax. Gateway does not purport to offer software training courses that develop specific knowledge or vocational skills for the purpose of training, retraining or upgrading individuals for gainful employment. Passes are not transferable. No refunds are allowed for Upgrade Passes. Training available at participating Gateway Country locations. Courses listed may not be available in all locations.

⁶ Offer expires 9/30/00. Not all software bundles are available on all systems. See specific configurations for available titles. Available only with consumer PC purchase. Not available with the purchase of Remanufactured or Business PCs.

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craft the perfect letter. Get it to the right person. Track it.
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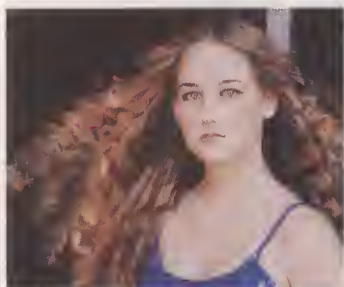


click!

PEOPLE, PLACES, AND TRENDS ON THE NET 10.00

EDITED BY RON BEL BRUNO

NETOBSESSIONS



LEELEE SOBIESKI

The 18-year-old siren of *Eyes Wide Shut* and *Here on Earth* has a dozen Yahoo! Clubs—more than most of her acting peers may ever inspire. Start @: **THE PALACE OF PRINCESS LEELEE** [clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/thepalaceofprincessleelee]

KITTIE

It pays to release your first album on the Net. This underground girl band sold more than 8,000 copies of *Spit* during its first week of sale. Visit some of the 36 fan sites. Start @: **JUST SPIT** [geocities.com/kittierox]

HEATH LEDGER

Star with fellow Aussie Mel Gibson in *The Patriot* and there's no telling what kind of fame you'll achieve. Tune in at one of nine fan sites. Start @: **HEATH LEDGER'S DOMAIN** [members.tripod.com/happysandler]



memorable site

The Original Survivors

WITH SURVIVOR II NOT QUITE READY FOR prime time, you may need a Darwinian-challenge fix. William Golding's 1954 novel *Lord of the Flies* tells the story of a group of young boys struggling to survive on a deserted island after a plane crash. Forced to live off the land, the children devolve

into packs of homicidal anarchists. Bone up on their strategy, treachery, and capacity for evil at **LORD OF THE FLIES** [gerenser.com/lotf]. Its interactive map, glossary, and character analyses serve as excellent guides to the novel and the subsequent film. —M.G.

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SITES AT
**YIL.COM/
MEMORABLE.**

THIS MONTH'S CLICK CLIQUE: SCOTT ALEXANDER, JEREMY CAPLAN, BILGE EBIRI, MEGAN GERRITY, LYNN GINSBURG, CHRIS HARRIS, GAIL HENRY, JOSH ROBERTSON, MARC SALTZMAN, JONATHAN VANKIN. WRITE TO **CLICK@ZIFFDAVIS.COM**. READERS ONLY, PLEASE!

E-Books: The Next Chapter

In the aftermath of Stephen King's Net publishing venture, Time Warner, Random House, and other players introduce their own online emporiums

STEPHEN KING'S LATEST NOVEL IS THE TALE OF A homicidal plant that terrorizes a publishing company. But as thousands of surfers already know, you can't purchase a bound copy of *The Plant*; King put it up for download, chapter by chapter, at [stephenking.com]. The author's profitable scheme has neatly bypassed publishing houses, much as MP3-based musicians have left record labels out of the loop. But industry players don't see a great

FRESH TALENT: Controversial author Elizabeth Wurtzel's *The Secret of Life* will be offered by @Random.



future for less prestigious self-publishing attempts.

"How does the average author drive people to his site? That's what a publisher does; it promotes and markets your book," says Claire Zion, editorial director of **IPUBLISH.COM**, Time Warner's new e-book venture. Unlike many Net-shy record companies, publishers seem eager to distribute their wares on the Web. The iPublish online store recently released 23 titles, including both new and rereleased works by Nelson DeMille and David Foster Wallace for \$5 to \$15 each. Random House Trade Group will launch **@RANDOM** [atrandom.com] in early 2001, with books by *Prozac Nation* and *Bitch* author Elizabeth Wurtzel and *The Nudist on the Late Shift* author Po Bronson, among others.

Using a different approach, HarperCollins's Perennial imprint recently released Josh Koppel's *Good/Grief* (\$15), a "children's book for grown-ups," in print and at the official Web site [joshkoppel.com]. One month after its print debut, the book went digital, with a Net-only seventh chapter.

Both the literary establishment and renegade writers are proving that there are many ways to publish an e-book. Which will prevail? Scott Retberg, executive director of the **ELECTRONIC LITERATURE ORGANIZATION** [eliterature.org], a consortium of e-book advocates, sees many digital models thriving: "There will be @Random and iPublish, with huge marketing engines and lower royalties. There will be small presses with a more progressive model; there will be networks of writers and designers; there will be people who build up a cult following on the Internet and do it themselves." It's a real page-turner...or would that be a page-clicker?

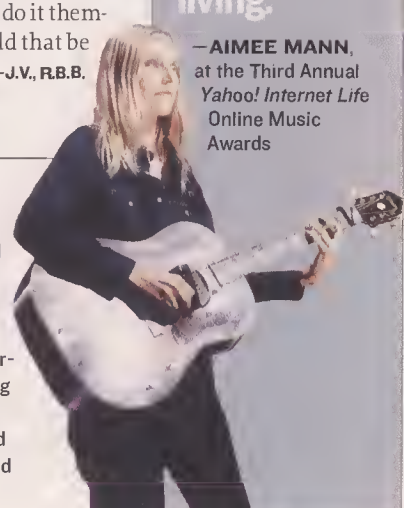
—J.V., R.B.B.

NETBRIEFS.10/00

WIRELESS WINNERS AOL and Time Warner are making nonmerger news. The nation's largest online service now provides content to AT&T Wireless users, while Time Warner is cooking up original animated programming for handheld PCs...**NET CRACKDOWN** The Serbian government isn't exactly a friend of the Web. Thanks to new legislation, the government has carte blanche to access both the customer

data and e-mail traffic of the nation's ISP. Recently, the Serbs "congratulated" reporter Miroslav Filipovic on being named Europe's Internet Journalist of the Year by imprisoning him for espionage. The **INSTITUTE FOR WAR & PEACE REPORTING** [www.iwpr.net] has more coverage....**E-MAIL FOR ALL!** The U.S. Postal Service is planning to establish an e-mail address for every U.S. resident over the next several years. The

system will also be used to track and reroute mail....**WATCH THE ROAD** Ford Motor Co., in conjunction with Qualcomm, will be offering Web services in its cars starting in late 2001. Nearly all Ford vehicles should be Net-ready by the end of 2004. —M.G.



quotables

"When the shoeshine man gives you stock market tips, it's time to sell. When celebrities are doing startups, does that mean it's over?"

—MAX KEISER, CEO of **HSX.COM**, the Hollywood Stock Exchange

"God bless the Internet, because it's the only way independent artists like me can make a living."

—AIMEE MANN, at the Third Annual Yahoo! Internet Life Online Music Awards



This tent saved Frank Clark's life.

(If he'd paid full price his wife would've killed him.)

It's an all too familiar story. Over the years, Frank had slowly acquired a basement full of overpriced sporting goods. At Gear.com, we find the best deals on last season's gear and discount it 25% to 75%. Now Frank

buys whatever he wants, confident he's getting the best price. We're happy enough to be outfitting the world. And if we keep a few guys from spending the night on the couch along the way, that's even better.



Name brand sporting goods at closeout prices.

Save!

SMART MOVES

WHAT'S IN A NAME

In the wake of several high-profile domain-name lawsuits (see People Briefs, at right), a new California law bars the registration of Web site names that are "identical or confusingly similar" to the names of people, living or dead. Aboutfrickintime.com!

GOT A SAVE OR DELETE? VISIT YIL.COM/SD TO POST PRAISE OR CRITICISM.

PAID IN FULL

Cynics who chuckled when Stephen King announced the online sale of *The Plant* under the honor system, take note: More than 76 percent of the serial's readers have paid in full, and some have even overpaid as a way of compensating for deadbeats. Capitalism on the honor system—what a concept!

BE DISCOVERED

Some record labels try to quash music downloads. DreamWorks Records, playing nice, offers aspiring musicians the chance to upload their best tracks to **DREAMWORKS DIGITAL** [dreamworksdigital.com], where promising entries are posted to the listening library for surfers' feedback—and possible stardom.

TURNING GREEN

Having an online purchase delivered consumes 90 percent less fuel than buying it at a mall, according to the Center for Energy and Climate Solutions. So park the car and log on, already.

Delete!

...AND DUBIOUS DEEDS

HERE'S JERRY

A character in **THETHRESHOLD.COM**'s new animated series *The Producer* is named the Blue Jew. Maybe that grinds your gears; maybe it doesn't. But what if we told you that the voice of Blue is trash-TV monarch Jerry Springer? Thought so.

TOYING WITH PRIVACY

Though **TOYSMART.COM** pledged never to sell customer info, officials reneged after the site folded. But as shown by legal opposition to the new plan (from 45 state attorneys general), this isn't just kid's play.

DOUBLE DOSE

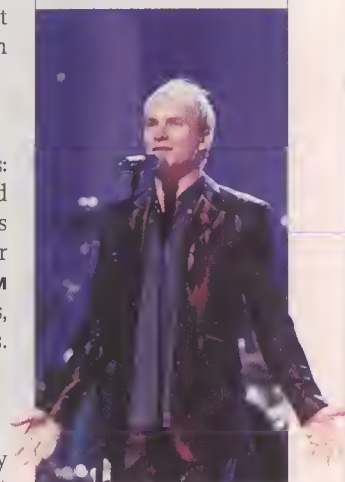
And now, with a few choice words to our sponsors: **DOUBLECLICK** [doubleclick.com], the online ad agency, hopes to beam site-specific advertisements to your cell phone or palmtop in the near future...and a new feature at ratings site **DEJA.COM** links product names found in discussion boards, among other places, directly to advertisements. Thanks, guys, we all *really* wanted these.

THE INTERNET NAMED MY BABY

When **IUMA** [iuma.com] held a Name Your Baby Iuma contest, Jessica and Travis Thornhill did just that, to the tune of \$5,000 and on-site publicity for Travis's band. Fast-forward to 2010....IUMA: Daddy, how did you name me? TRAVIS: Well, I was in this band. And I had my eye on this great truck....

PEOPLE BRIEFS/10.00

STUNG Failing to prove his right to **STING.COM**, Sting has become one of the first celebrities to lose a domain-name arbitration. The rocker's legal team couldn't prove that the site, owned by an online gamer, had been registered in bad faith....



HOWEVER, British band Jethro Tull did win its name back from an alleged cybersquatter. The domain names **JETHROTULL.COM** and **JETHRO-TULL.COM**, were found to have been registered in bad faith....**WALLET NOT INCLUDED** A Margaret Thatcher fan paid £100,000 (\$150,000) for one of the former prime minister's handbags in a recent online auction of donated celebrity totes....**LOVE IT** Label-hater Courtney Love has posted 52 free Hole MP3s on **HOLEMUSIC.COM**, along with photos and videos. Her estranged label, Universal Music Group, didn't have any comment. —M.G.

PALM READING

Supermodel Claudia Schiffer has unveiled the Palm Vx Claudia Schiffer Edition, exclusively at **CLAUDIASCHIFFER.COM**. Here's a look at some potential competitors.



CELEB:	FEATURES:
AL GORE	Polished wooden case
GEORGE W. BUSH	Erases memos and appointments after seven years
DAVID COPPERFIELD	Tricky interface—formerly compatible with Schiffer edition
BACKSTREET BOYS	Inexplicably popular, given its limited capabilities
BRITNEY SPEARS	Scads of extra silicone—er, silicon
BILL GATES	Splits in two, yet either half is more successful than any other palmtop
KATHIE LEE	Made by extremely well-paid union workers in the "U.S. of A...."
SHIRLEY MACLAINE	Infinite channels



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NEVER ASK
YOU TO
“GET IN TOUCH
WITH YOUR FEMININE SIDE.”**

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Real friends drink together responsibly.





MUSIC

With the daring 1997 concept album *OK Computer*, members of the British band Radiohead established their reputation as alternative rockers. As their follow-up effort, *Kid A*, hits the sales racks, stop by the band's refreshingly spare and Flash-free site, **RADIO-HEAD** [www.radiohead.co.uk]. Here you can check out cryptic tour diaries and brooding, arty photographs, or link to the numerous social causes the group supports. As you might expect, the band has a somewhat creative and expressive online following. **GREEN PLASTIC RADIOHEAD** [greenplastic.com] offers news and information, including a thorough list of performances and a handy guide to landmarks in Oxford, England, that are associated with the band members' time as students there. Another fan site, **FDLLDW ME AROUND** [followmearound.com], beams out rare performance tracks,

along with lyrics, guitar tabs, and frequent e-mail updates.

ART, ETC.

September 19 marked the debut of *Art and The Empire City: New York, 1825-1861*, **THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART's** [metmuseum.org] massive exhibit of art and design during a time when New York emerged as a formidable cultural rival of Paris and London. For more on Gotham's rise to cosmopolitan prominence, check out **THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY** [www.nyhistory.org], which features glimpses at and

discussions of artifacts from the Big Apple's glorious past....New York's CowParade, a citywide street exhibit of life-size fiberglass cows, may not have made the curators at the Louvre green with envy, but this whimsical collection is pleasing nonetheless. Visit the exhibit's Moo-seum at [cowparade.org], which maps out the ruminants' locations around the boroughs. You'll even find a list of their titles (we were particularly struck by Udderly Shakespeare in the Park and Tutancowmon), as well as the names of the creators of these bovine delights. —B.E.



ABOVE: Radiohead.
RIGHT: Cow on parade.

WHEREWHEN

CATCH IT LIVE*

VIN SCELSA'S LIVE AT LUNCH

An eclectic playlist spun by the renowned New York rock deejay.
[artistent.com]

SANDRADID

Comedienne Sandra Bernhard takes to the mike.
[comedyworld.com/liston/shows/?doc=sandradio]

GET IT ANYTIME

ABDUL THE GREAT

In this stop-motion narrative series, a stuffed bear battles Lizard Men from Mars.
[violetcrown.com/abdul/abdulsmovie.htm]

MUSIC VIDEOS

More than 5,200.
[launch.com/music/watch]

PRESIDENT CLINTON: FINAL DAYS

Check into the Clinton White House one last time.
[adcritic.com/content/president-clinton-final-days.html]

GO CHAT*

TALKBACK LIVE

Hash over the issues with other CNN junkies.
[cnn.com/chat]

WOMEN AND THE WEB

Tech issues for X-chromosomers.
[www.zdnet.com/zdnet/interact/chatwithus/story/0,6924,2123895,00.html]

* All times are Eastern.

overheard

"He's a little bit of a loser...always doing things wrong. He has the best intentions, but they never turn out right."

—STAN LEE, on his creation, Spider-Man, in a Yahoo! Chat



Live365.com



This is not your father's radio,

It's *Big Brother's*!!!!

*****Wake up, freedom-loving citizens!!!!*****

It's a new dawn, the thought police are at the door and all they want you to do is visit a nice little web site called Live365.com. Just type in the URL and what at first seems a pleasant diversion is soon an all-consuming sonic passion. Your night, your day, Your wrong your right. And before you know it, you're hypnotised in front of your computer speakers for the umpteenth day in a row and little Joey and Jane America are pledging allegiance to the Iraqi flag. Resist temptation! Read on!



+**Ignore the following at your own peril**:

MYTH 1

"All you're gonna feel is good." Sure, the "tunes" seem good, the DJs seem good, it's all good. !!!!At FIRST!!!! But then you're hooked and the turntables turn. Just how "good" are you gonna feel when you have to move what's left of your belongings into a box car???

MYTH 2

"I can quit listening any time I want." Nail biting, slouching, "close" dancing--these are things you can quit. Live365.com is not. Pretty soon, you'll be skipping work. Kids will be playing hooky. And who's that sitting in your barcalounger? Why it's Saddam Hussein!

365----> 3+6+5=14

14---->1+4=5

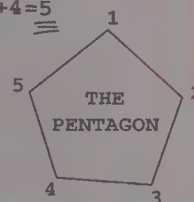


fig1.



fig.2



fig.3

Intelligence sources will "neither confirm nor deny" the so-called insidious insidious Brain-Devolution associated with repeated exposure to said "broadcasting" procedure(Live365.com.)

MYTH 3

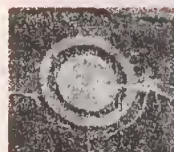
"Free music on the Internet is good."

That's just what the Tri-lateral Commission (aka the Illuminati aka the Bilderbergers) wants you to believe. Wake up, Nancy! Free music leads directly to Free Love... and next thing you know you're keeping time to the music with a big dose of the Clap!



Darryl Jackson aka DJ Darryl aka

THE DOMIN-ATOR aka Rasta D This unlicensed DJ's (Death Jockey!) reggae show now has 100,000 desperate addicts.How many more must fall under his spell before we awaken from our slumber???



LIVE 365.COM

**this "curious" pattern appeared one morning in an Idaho cornfield. The handiwork of an overzealous farmer and his mower? Think again!!!!!!

LIVE 365.COM

Wrong for America





click! SHOPPING



1

1 LEMON BAR

Sometimes even strong, black coffee can't stir you on a cool, rainy morning. For those days, try the oversize bar of intensely scented lemon soap (\$15) at Bliss Spa's **BLISS-WORLD** [blissspa.com]. It picks up where the double espresso leaves off.

2 BEG TO DIFFER

Fans of the Happy Waitress Special will immediately recognize this tribute to the classic Greek-diner coffee cup. **BELLEMART** [bellemart.com] donates part of the price of the Lucky Beggar Purse (\$25) to Help USA, a charity for the homeless.

3 RAIN DATE

There's no such thing as a pleasant rainstorm—that is, unless you've taken the day off and there's a great delivery service on call. But for those who are braving the elements, the Marmot Osprey Jacket (\$330) from **MENSTOYS.COM** keeps things dry. —G.H.



2



3

SHOPSMARTER

According to a Forrester Research poll, 94 percent of online shoppers are concerned about shipping charges. If you're among the disenchanted, take note: **FREESHIPPING.COM** promotes only those Web merchants that ship products gratis. Though it's not the most comprehensive online mall, it does provide a relatively large selection. We found Calvin Klein perfume, a Prada handbag, and an Apple iMac DV during our last visit.

AUCTION ACTION

Going, going...still here. The **Andrea Gail** fishing vessel from *The Perfect Storm* received a \$102,100 high bid on **EBAY** [ebay.com], but that didn't meet its reserve price, and the boat remained unsold. Too bad for Warner Bros., though you'd think it made enough money off the film, no?



! I CAN BUY ON THE NET?

Ever wanted to visit Dr. Frasier Crane's bachelor crib? *Frasier*'s producer, Paramount Pictures, made one viewer's dreams come true when it auctioned off a walk-on part in *Frasier* on **LYCOS** [lycos.com] for \$18,000. —M.G.

SOAP AND JACKET: DAVIES • STARR. PURSE: MICHEL DELSOL. BOAT: CLAUDETTE BARIUS/WARNER BROS.



We think teens should learn about responsible spending sooner rather than later. Which is why we'd like to encourage parents like you to talk to their teens. A good conversation starter? Introducing Visa Buxx.™

what it is

A brand-new prepaid, reloadable spending card that very well may be the future of allowance.

how it works

You can put money on it online or through the toll-free number. The money can come from your checking or savings account, credit or debit card. Your teens can use it at any of the 18 million places where Visa® is accepted. Since you decide how much money goes on the card, you can control how much your teens spend.

Hey, at least it's not the birds and the bees.

Plus, you can sign up for Visa Buxx, get account balances, review your statements online or through a toll-free number. Reviewing your statement with your teens is another great way to help them learn about responsible spending.

how it helps

Visa Buxx. It just may help you teach your teens something about keeping a budget. And at least it's not the most uncomfortable topic you've ever had to bring up.

how to get it

For more information, call 1-877-588-BUXX or visit visabuxx.com.



It's everywhere you want to be.®

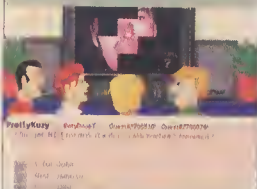


ONLINE PICKS

The 10 most popular games at Uproar

- 1 FAMILY FEUD
- 2 BINGO BLITZ
- 3 BLOWOUT BINGO
- 4 PUZZLE A-GO-GO
- 5 VIDEO POKER
- 6 **PICTURE THIS**
- 7 COLOR CODE
- 8 TRIVIA FREE FOR ALL
- 9 100%
- 10 BLACKJACK

Rankings reflect traffic at [uproar.com] for the week ending 7/30.



TOP DEMOS

The 10 most popular game downloads at Happy Puppy

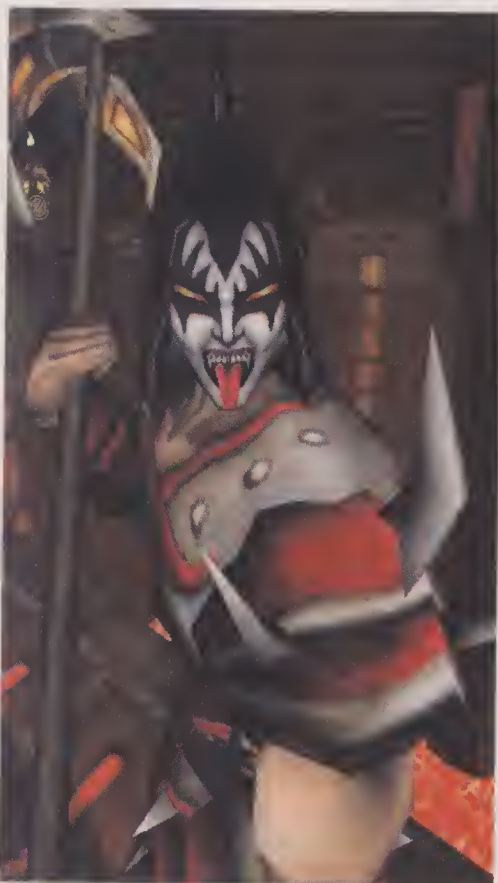
- 1 DEUS EX
- 2 KISS PSYCHO CIRCUS
- 3 STAR TREK VOYAGER: ELITE FORCE
- 4 CARMAGEDDON TOR 2000
- 5 GRAND THEFT AUTO 2
- 6 KICKFLIP
- 7 **SUPERBIKE 2000**
- 8 KO ULTRA-REALISTIC BOXING
- 9 BUBBLE BOBBLE NOSTALGIE
- 10 3D ULTRA PINBALL: THRILLRIDE



Rankings reflect downloads at [happypuppy.com] for the month of July.

Gaming's First Kiss

Who needs stadium concerts? The '70s glam team of Gene, Paul, Ace, and Pete is now starring in a 'totally surreal' first-person shooter



OLD ROCKERS DON'T DIE—OR EVEN ROCK AND roll over; they just keep working. To wit, the glittery KISS foursome are now lending their talent and personae to Gathering of Developers' first-person 3-D shooter, KISS Psycho Circus: The Nightmare Child [kisspsychocircus.com].

This action game, based on illustrations by comic-book artist Todd McFarlane, features more than 50 characters spread across 40-plus levels of play. The game links each of its four heroes, based on band members Gene Simmons, Paul Stanley, Ace Frehley, and Peter Criss, with the element (fire, water, air, or earth) that enhances his power. For example, the fire-powered Demon (left) is more of a threat when paired with the fiery Magma Cannon than with the air-driven Windblade.

"The game's totally surreal, like *Alice in Wonderland*," says Simmons. "It sucks you into the magic, then kicks you in the face. It's like good rock 'n' roll."

Ten original KISS tunes, ranging from the early hit "Cold Gin" to 1998's "Psycho Circus," serve as the sound track to gamers' warring sessions. Look for free level editors for Psycho Circus and maps created by players themselves, downloadable from the aforementioned hub site.

KISS recently announced that it wouldn't go on the road again after completing this year's tour dates. Given the members' newfound interest in gaming, you have to wonder if they're trading in their guitars for joysticks.

—M.S.

GAMING ROUNDUP

CHASING TALES?

Where online can you find some new whodunits? **MYSTERYNET.COM** publishes a steady stream of original (and free) online tales. Would-be gumshoes can also read its book reviews and its guide to mystery movies on TV. Case closed.

GAMES TO GO

Looking for some Palm OS and Windows CE diversions? **PDA GAMES** [pdagames.com] hosts previews, reviews, and links to downloads (such as Dark Haven II, right) for your handheld. Keep your eyes on the road though, okay?

MAIL CALL

Is free your second-favorite four-letter word? Register your e-mail address at **ZAPSPOT** [zapspot.com].



and you'll receive a new computer game each week. Top picks include new twists on solitaire (Caveman Cards) and tricky arcade-style challenges (ColorBreak).

TOP TRACKS

Games have come a long way as an entertainment category. **GAME MUSIC ONLINE** [gamemusic.com] sells CDs filled with sound tracks from popular PC, Dreamcast, and PlayStation titles such as Xenogears and Gran Turismo 2, and sheet music for these arrangements. Browse the collection by title, chart toppers, or game platform.

—M.S.

**Last night, she shot you down.
TODAY, IT'S YOUR TURN.**



Dogfight opponents online in cutthroat multiplayer.



Only 11 biplanes out there in 2 thrilling missions.

The 1930s ain't what they used to be. America lies in pieces and air power is king. It's a shoot-or-get-shot-down world. You'll dogfight ruthless air pirates. Rescue saucy pinups. Dodge flak from dicey femmes fatales. And mix it up with other aces online. But remember, one thing still holds true—don't get mad, get even.

www.microsoft.com/games/crimsonskies

Big guns. Fast planes. Gorgeous dames.



Microsoft

Zone.com

**ZIPPER
INTERACTIVE**

**TEEN
T**

Animated Violence
Use of Alcohol



NETSAVERS



CAREER DISH

You're up for a job at an advertising agency known for its combative, quick-burnout atmosphere. Are all the rumors you've heard true? Visit **WETFEET.COM**, a career site that picks up where smiley-faced headhunters and glossy recruiting brochures leave off. Wetfeet offers industry and company profiles, salary reports from **SALARY.COM**, and candid discussion boards. Combing through Journalism & Publishing, we found a comprehensive industry overview, profiles of actual job-holders (including incomes), and a broad summary of necessary job skills. ("Writing almost always requires research or knowledge about a particular subject." No, really?) However, one report describes one publisher's corporate culture perfectly, based on our knowledge: "Extremely cliquey environment...difficult to interview without a personal contact." Surfers chime in on the discussion boards with their own experiences. Ultimately, you have to go with your gut—but a few clear whispers in your ear are helpful.

—J.C.



GADGET UPGRADES

Dust off your old printer, desktop computer, camera, or PDA and swap it for a new gizmo at **TRADEUPS.COM**. Describe your merchandise by its make, model number, and condition. Then describe what you want in return. Don't expect deep bargains, though: We offered the site a Palm IIIx in "good" condition toward a new Palm VII; the site returned a quote of \$329 in about three minutes (most come within an hour). You'd pay \$449

for your new Palm at the **PALM STORE** [palmorder.modusmedia.com], so you're saving a little and avoiding the hassle of selling your existing palmtop locally.

—J.C.

Get It Together!

'Call me, fax me, e-mail me.' Okay, but how do you manage all those without crossing your own wires?



THEY'RE CALLED UNIVERSAL IN-BOXES. And although these Web services aim to manage your overflowing stream of communications, figuring out which one works for you

can be almost as confusing as fielding those myriad calls and faxes.

The universal in-box gives you a phone number, to which callers can send voice mail



messages or faxes. The twist: You can read these messages on a special Web page—no juggling phones or dealing with lines at a hotel's front desk while trying to pick up a fax.

In the best cases, the services are free—but they don't come without some (reasonable) conditions, which we've detailed in the overview below.

—L.G.

SERVICE	\$\$\$	INCOMING	OUTGOING	NOTES
EFAX.COM—BASIC	Free	☎ ¹ ☎	☎	Scrap the messy rolls of paper and make eFax your virtual fax machine. Premium service adds a toll-free number.
EFAX.COM—PREMIUM	\$5/MO.	☎ ² ☎	☎	
MESSAGECLICK.COM	\$8/MO.	☎ ^{1,2} ☎	☎	Toll-free voice mail and faxing, but its meter's running.
ONEBOX.COM—BASIC	Free	☎ ³ ☎ ☐	☐	If you're popular and don't want a limit on incoming calls, this is the one.
ONEBOX.COM—PREMIUM	\$5/MO.	☎ ¹ ☎ ☐	☐	
UREACH.COM—BASIC	Free	☎ ^{2,3} ☎ ☐	☐ ☎	Toll-free number (limited to 30 minutes per month) makes it the best bet for those with long-distance friends and associates.
UREACH.COM—PREMIUM	Free	☎ ^{1,2} ☎ ☐	☐ ☎	

☎ = PHONE ☎¹ = FAX ☐ = E-MAIL

¹DIRECT DIAL ²TOLL FREE ³WITH FOUR-DIGIT EXTENSION

CAMEL

PLEASURE — TO — BURN



Camel Lights

11 mg. "tar", 0.8 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Quitting Smoking
Now Greatly Reduces Serious Risks to Your Health.



SINCE 1913



Orange Rush

TO SOME, ORANGE IS ALL about pumpkins and fiery autumn foliage. Others think of their morning juice. No matter what your association, you're bound to find something that appeals in our alternative Halloween homage.

From top:

Boing Dish

\$116 [benzadesign.com/products_boing.html]

Neon Slinky (on Boing Dish)

\$4 [etoys.com/toy/g/product/101/11/32]

Pop Pad trivet

\$31 [pure-design.com/shop/accessories]

White-and-orange Barnotes mini notepads (affixed to trivet)

\$11; set of four [fredflare.com/catalog/geo/barnotes.html]

BluDot 2D: 3D letter holder

\$17 [netsetgoods.com]

6-cent Curtiss Jenny stamp (on envelope)

\$75-\$100 [www.championstamp.com]

Boylan's orange soda

\$5.60; six 12-oz. long-neck bottles [store.yahoo.com/soda-pop/boylansorange.html]

It
thinks
big.



TRACKER

LIKE A ROCK

The new Chevy™ Tracker® LT with a V6 engine. With all that power, available four-wheel drive and a steel ladder-type frame, you'll definitely see the resemblance. chevrolet.com



Finding Net Religion

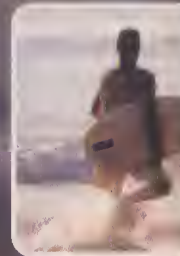
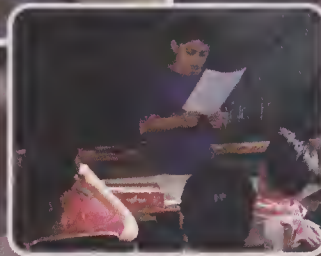
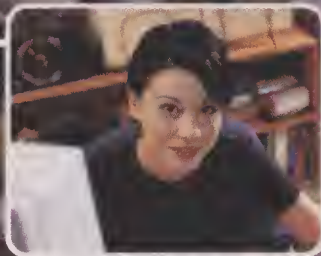
The Web and **Michael Stipe** are fast friends

THE INTERNET HAS LOOMEED LARGE in Michael Stipe's mind recently: "Guess who got the I Love You virus here in the studio? Bob, the official photographer on our last tour, and he hadn't backed up his photos. Now we have to animate our next album, like the Archies."

When not coping with love-struck viruses or checking in at the infamous **MULLETSGALORE.COM**, his favorite Web site, the R.E.M. front man is an independent film producer. Self Timer, his production company, has spawned indie buzzmakers such as *Being John Malkovich*, *The Limey*, and *American Movie*. And because **RSUB** [rsub.com], an alternative-entertainment hub, acquired a minority stake in the company, Stipe will also be promoting his work online.

"Not to get overly dramatic about it," he says, "but it's very, very difficult to make the kind of films that I'm interested in, to get them financed and get any kind of distribution."

The hope is that Web promotion will bring Stipe's titles to thus-far untapped audiences. "I live in Athens, Georgia, and there are no art-house theaters here," he says. But don't expect to see any of Self Timer's films online just yet. "The kind of stuff you can watch on the Web right now is still in the toddler stages," says Stipe, referring to technological limitations. "But it's progressing quickly." —B.E.



Share Your Videos with Family and Friends

Introducing TeVeo. The optimal site for owners of camcorders and webcams to capture and share high-resolution video in real time over the Internet.

With TeVeo, people can share everyday events. You can create funny home videos or post once-in-a-lifetime happenings that you happen to catch on video. You can share hobbies or run classes for a select group of people, or anyone interested in the subject. Businesses can add video content to their Internet branding, or showcase their latest products. The possibilities are endless.

For more information about TeVeo's products and services visit the teveo.com Web site. Isn't it time you saw what you're missing.

TeVeo
See What You're Missing

www.teveo.com

The Tree: A Genealogy of O.J.'s Web Site

A look at how history conspired to make the Juice's killer Net app all but inevitable

HE HELPED MAKE JOHNNIE COCHRAN OUR NATION'S POET LAUREATE. He edged out John Elway for jock most linked to the phrase "White Bronco." He gave us Kato. Oh, and he won a Heisman. Now he's going online. Society recently took another staggering step toward Armageddon when O.J. Simpson launched **ASKOJ.COM**, a Q&A Web site designed to put to rest

any doubts about his innocence, and assist in his quest to find the real killers of Nicole Simpson and Ron Goldman. "AskOJ.com," in the words of Mr. Simpson, "will enable me to speak directly to the public without interference." What kind of world did it take to cultivate such a site? Replay history and you'll find that the seeds have always been there. Finally, it all makes sense. —C.H.

NOTORIOUS INITIALS

SPQR



KKK

TNT

USSR

LSD

L.T.

PTL

WWW

B.I.G.

.COM

W



Jordan's IMAX film

BALL HANDLERS

Atlas

Fortune-tellers

Galileo

Tommy, the Pinball Wizard

Pelé

Pee-wee Herman



Televised lottery drawings
Tommy Lee & Pamela video



Monica on Barbara Walters

DUBIOUS TECHNOLOGIES

Guillotine

Electric chair

Call waiting

Tamagotchi

Adult scooters



"Where do you want to go today?"



SO WHAT'S YOUR QUESTION?

Oracle at Delphi

Spanish Inquisition

Dear Abby

Jeopardy!



Ask Jeeves

ONGOING SEARCHES

Golden Fleece

Holy Grail

Northwest Passage

Shangri-La

Amelia Earhart

Godot

SUCCESSFUL

UNSUCCESSFUL

The beef
Spock

Where's Waldo?



The Fugitive

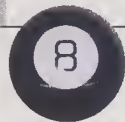
Mr. Goodbar

Deep Throat

What U2 is looking for

Mulder's sister

Nicole and Ron's "real" killers



Magic B-Ball Web sites

www.askoj.com



THE SCARLET LETTER: EVERETT COLLECTION; ASER: HPG PHOTOEST; TAMAGOTCHI: XAVIER ROSS/ALAN; JEOPARDY!: PHOTO FANTASIES; JORDAN: ROCKY WIDNER/RETNA LTD.; BUSH: HARRY CABLUCK/AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS; B-BALL: WALTER MCBRIDE/RETNA LTD.; WALTERS AND LEWINSKY: VIRGINIA SHERWOOD/ABC NEWS/COBIS SYGMA; WALDO: FOTO FANTASIES; SIMPSON: AEL ROESTER/COBIS SYGMA



DIGITAL AUDIO



YOUR
music
YOUR
choice

Hit the road with the latest evolution in portable digital audio players from the rebel leader of the music revolution. Whether your passion is alternative, hip-hop or the fringes of spoken word, Rio delivers a listening experience way beyond mainstream electronics.

Rio
DIGITAL AUDIO PLAYER



Rio 800

Rio 600

Rio is a registered trademark of RioPort.com, Inc. licensed by Diamond Multimedia Systems, Inc., a division of S3 Incorporated.





click! CHARTS

THE SITES

WEB TOPPERS

The most popular sites among Web surfers

SITE **UNIQUE VISITORS**
(IN MILLIONS)

1	YAHOO.COM*	47.8
2	MSN.COM	39.1
3	AOL.COM	31.3
4	MICROSOFT.COM	29.7
5	LYCOS.COM*	25.9
6	PASSPORT.COM	22.0
7	HOTMAIL.COM	20.2
8	GO.COM	20.1
9	NETSCAPE.COM	18.4
10	EXCITE*	16.9

WHERE'S THE BUZZ?

The most-visited entertainment sites...

SITE **UNIQUE VISITORS**
(IN MILLIONS)

1	REAL.COM	12.8
2	SNAP.COM	
	(SEARCH/SERVICES)*	10.1
3	ABOUT.COM	7.5
4	DISNEY ONLINE*	7.0
5	SPEEDYCLICK.COM	6.2

...and the top news/info sites

1	MSNBC.COM	8.7
2	ABOUT.COM	7.5
3	WEATHER.COM	7.2
4	CNN.COM	4.1
5	TIME.COM	3.7

Media Metrix [mediamatrix.com] measures the preferences of more than 50,000 Net surfers. "Unique visitors" represents the number of users who visited the site once during June. Apparent ties are the result of rounding.
*Aggregated sites

NETPOLL

SAM RULES

Q: Who's your favorite Jackson?

SAMUEL L. JACKSON	46%
JANET JACKSON	24%
JACKSON BROWNE	14%
MICHAEL JACKSON	11%
JOSHUA JACKSON	5%

Poll represents responses of 5,574 voters at USA Today [usatoday.com] as of 7/28.

CHATS

The best-attended get-togethers at Yahoo! Chat [chat.yahoo.com].

- 1 BRUCE WILLIS [7/13]
- 2 GEORGE ANDERSON, spiritual medium [7/23]
- 3 METALLICA [7/16]
- 4 MICHAEL FREENY, relationship expert [7/27]
- 5 BONNIE EAKER WEIL, relationship expert [7/13]

Rankings reflect July chat attendance.

FILM

The top-selling Hollywood titles on OVO at Amazon.com*

- 1 AMERICAN BEAUTY



- 2 BRAVEHEART
- 3 THE PRINCESS BRIDE
- 4 JAWS 25TH ANNIVERSARY COLLECTOR'S EDITION
- 5 TERMINATOR 2: JUDGMENT DAY (Ultimate DVD Edition)

...and the most-viewed film titles at AtomFilms [atomfilms.com].**

- 1 BIKINI BANDITS & THE MAGIC LAMP, comedy
- 2 AMERICAN PI, comedy
- 3 SAVING RYAN'S PRIVATES, comedy
- 4 THE NEW ARRIVAL, comedy
- 5 TITLER, musical

*Rankings reflect July sales.

**Rankings reflect July viewing.

PALMTOPS

The top downloads for handhelds at PalmGear H.Q. [palmgear.com]...

- 1 BILLIARD 2.2, pool game
- 2 DATEBK4, time-management tool
- 3 CENTIPEDE!, arcade game
- 4 SILVERSCREEN I.5, program launcher

...and the most-subscribed-to channels at AvantGo [avantgo.com].*

- 1 STOCK SMART STOCK TRADER
- 2 FOX SPORTS
- 3 FOX NEWS
- 4 NEW YORK TIMES: FRONT PAGE
- 5 THE WEATHER CHANNEL

*Rankings reflect July downloads.

BOOKS

The top-selling hardcover fiction titles at Amazon.com*...

- 1 THE RIVER KING, Alice Hoffman
- 2 OMERTA, Mario Puzo
- 3 HOT SIX, Janet Evanovich
- 4 THE INDWELLING: THE BEAST TAKES POSSESSION (LEFT BEHIND, 7), Tim F. Lahaye, Jerry B. Jenkins
- 5 MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, Ridley Pearson

...and the most-swapped book titles at SwitchHouse [switchhouse.com].**

- 1 THE ROCK SAYS, The Rock
- 2 HAVE A NICE DAY, Mankind
- 3 GIRL, INTERRUPTED, Susanna Kaysen
- 4 THE BRETHERN, John Grisham
- 5 TIMELINE, Michael Crichton

*Rankings reflect sales during the week ending 7/28.

**Rankings reflect July swaps.

MUSIC

The top-selling titles online, as tallied by NMC [netmusiccountdown.com]...

- 1 RIDING WITH THE KING, Eric Clapton & B.B. King
- 2 DDPS!...I DID IT AGAIN, Britney Spears
- 3 MARSHALL MATHERS LP, Eminem
- 4 INSIDE JOB, Don Henley
- 5 SUPERNATURAL, Santana

...and the titles played most on computer CD drives, as tallied by COOB [cddb.com].**

- 1 MARSHALL MATHERS LP, Eminem
- 2 OOPS!...I DID IT AGAIN, Britney Spears
- 3 CALIFORNICATION, Red Hot Chili Peppers
- 4 SUPERNATURAL, Santana
- 5 HUMAN CLAY, Creed

*Rankings reflect sales during the week ending 7/28.

**Rankings reflect play during the week ending 7/27.

SOFTWARE

The most-downloaded titles at ZONet [www.hotfiles.com].

- 1 ZONEALARM, security utility
- 2 GOZILLA, downloading tool
- 3 ICQ, instant-messaging software
- 4 WINZIP (32-BIT), file compression tool
- 5 CUTE FTP (32-BIT), file transfer tool

Rankings reflect downloads during the week ending 7/28.

ART AUCTIONS

The paintings, prints, and photographs generating the highest bids at ArtNet.com.

- 1 MICKEY MOUSE, Andy Warhol screen print, \$22,000



- 2 THE OVAL OFFICE, Roy Lichtenstein color lithograph, \$8,250
- 3 COUPLE WITH BASKET OF FRUIT, Marc Chagall color silk screen, \$7,480
- 4 MICK JAGGER, Andy Warhol color silk screen, \$7,150
- 5 UNCLE SAM, Andy Warhol color screen print, \$5,500

Rankings reflect July sales.

SEARCHES

The most popular queries on Lycos [lycos.com]*...

- 1 NAPSTER
- 2 BIG BROTHER
- 3 BRITNEY SPEARS
- 4 POKÉMON
- 5 DRAGNBALL

...and the most popular celeb searches at El Online [eonline.com].**

- 1 HOWARD STERN
- 2 BRITNEY SPEARS
- 3 RUSSELL CRDWE
- 4 BRAD PITT
- 5 MEG RYAN

*Rankings reflect searches conducted during the week ending 7/29.

**Rankings reflect July searches.

RECIPES

The month's most popular recipe requests at StarChefs [starchefs.com].

- 1 RIBS WITH CHIPOTLE-MOLASSES BBQ SAUCE, Bobby Flay
- 2 PEACH COBBLER, Chris Schlesinger
- 3 "CRIOLLA MAMA" BBQ SHRIMP WITH A CORN & GOAT-CHEESE TORTA, Norman Van Aken
- 4 AVOCADO, GRAPEFRUIT, AND CURLY ENDIVE SALAD WITH CITRUS DRESSING, Alice Waters
- 5 BLUEBERRY BRIOCHE BREAD PUDDING, Daniel Boulud

Rankings reflect July searches.



THE ULTIMATE TOY BOX



Artwork subject to change.

ULTIMATE PICTURE

Created Directly
from the Digital Source

ULTIMATE SOUND

Dolby Digital 5.1 and
Dolby Digital Surround EX

ALSO

- Special Widescreen Presentation, Enhanced for 16x9 Televisions
- Original *Toy Story* Available for the First Time in a Digital Presentation

BONUS MATERIAL

- The History of Both Films
- Moviemaking Secrets
- Music and Sound Design
- Abandoned Concepts
- Hidden Jokes
- 3-D Fly-Around Tours
- Director Commentary And Much More!

OWN THE DVD 3-DISC COLLECTOR'S EDITION OCTOBER 17.

DVD 2-PACK* ALSO AVAILABLE

WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS A PIXAR ANIMATION STUDIOS FILM "TOY STORY 2" MUSIC BY RANDY NEWMAN PRODUCED BY HELENE PLOTKIN AND KAREN HUBERT JACKSON
ORIGINAL FILM BY JOHN LASSETER, PETE DOGTER, ASH BRANNON, ANDREW STANTON SCREENPLAY BY ANDREW STANTON, RITA HSIAO, DOUG CHAMBERLIN & CHRIS WEBB CO-PRODUCED BY LEE UNKRICH AND ASH BRANNON DIRECTED BY JOHN LASSETER

Original Soundtrack Available From
WALT DISNEY RECORDS

CD-ROMs and
video games
available

Visit us at www.DisneyVideos.com

DVDs Sold Only In Sets. Not Sold Individually.



Distributed by Buena Vista Home Entertainment Inc. Toy Story 2 Disney Enterprises, Inc./Pixar Animation Studios Toy Story Disney Enterprises, Inc.



PIXAR

My 2 cents about paying for content

The bottom line: Cough up or power down

THE TERM *BURN RATE* ORIGINALLY APPLIED TO THE SPEED AT WHICH new companies—dot-coms in particular—went through capital. Now it could describe their self-immolation. The Web is going through its own Great Depression as big sites go belly-up: **APBNEWS.COM**, **FASTV.COM**, **REEL.COM**, **RADIODIGEST.COM**, **BOO.COM**. Meanwhile, revenue from banner ads drops because many of the banners are linked to...other dot-coms. ■ These ominous signs do not foretell the death of

the Web. But sooner or later the free lunch has to end. Information wants to be free, but information providers want to be paid.

Where will the cash come from? Apart from the crazy money formerly raised by IPOs, Web sites have four basic sources of income: ads, subscriptions, retail sales, and commissions. Ads won't pull the train. There's enormous consumer resistance to subscriptions, except for a handful of high-motivation sites, including **WSJ.COM: THE WALL STREET JOURNAL** [wsj.com] and **DANNI'S HARD DRIVE** [danni.com] (little joke). Some retail sites, such as **AMAZON.COM**, will eventually be profitable; others have already failed. Commission sites, such as **EBAY** [ebay.com], seem to be doing okay.

But sales, subscriptions, and commissions don't apply to countless Web sites that offer information and entertainment. For

these, it's obviously time to take a fresh look at micropayments—charges of a few cents for every page view. Since individual credit card charges of a penny are not practical, one approach would have you establish a virtual cash balance with a clearinghouse that would collect and distribute the pennies.

Micropayments were part of the original theoretical model of the Web. I remember with what premature glee Gene Siskel and I pondered Nicholas Negroponte's *Being Digital* (1995), with its speculation about

whether users would pay 2 cents for one of our reviews. We pounded on the office calculator: 250 reviews times 2 cents times 10,000 users...50,000 users...3 million users...wow! If 3 million people paid 2 cents apiece for each of our reviews for a year, it would come to \$15 million!

Micropayments have been lurking in


the cybershadows for years. Microschemers have included not only CyberCash but also NetBill, DigiCash, IBM, Compaq's MilliCent system, MasterCard, Mondex, and Visa. None so far have found acceptance.

How much would micropayments cost Web surfers? Web usability expert Jakob Nielsen ran some of the numbers on his **USEIT.COM** site. He thinks heavy users average 46 pages a day, which at a penny a page would work out to about \$14 a month.

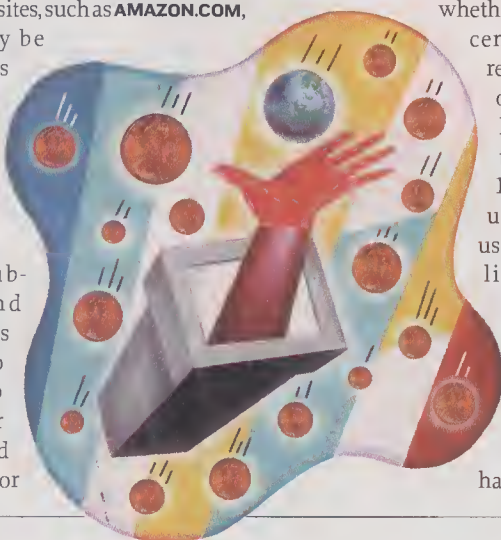
Would micropayments create a two-tier Web of first- and second-class Netizens? A "paynet" of prestigious sites and a "freenet" of sites not worth a penny a page? I doubt it. A good site gets traffic, period.

Consider **JIM ROMENESKO'S MEDIANEWS** [poynter.org/medianews], one of my daily stops. This is a media clearinghouse that started on a Macintosh in Rome-

nesko's bedroom. How does it compare with **INSIDE** [inside.com], the new pay site that wants to sell subscriptions? Jim's text-based chronology (new stories at the top, scrolling down into oblivion) means I never miss a story. Inside has an expert staff and many more resources, but it's click-heavy. If I add free sites such as **REUTERS** [reuters.com], **SALON.COM**, **SLATE** [slate.com], and two daily media trade sites—**THE HOT BUTTON** BY **DAVID POLAND** [roughcut.com/today/hot.button] and Aaron Barnhart's **TVBARN** [tvbarn.com]—to Romenesko, do I need to pay \$19.99 a month for Inside? On the other hand, would I pay a penny a page for MediaNews? Sure—though since a lot of it consists of links, who would get the penny?

The Web is not one of those magical plants that can grow in midair. It needs cash to live. The first sites to go micro will be those that know they can get away with it—major newspapers, gaming centers, financial resources, sports access, MP3 sources, and porn. Sites such as Napster may even share microbooty with musicians. Once users get accustomed to the idea, other sites will follow. Some will offer free pages on top, pay pages underneath. This will happen for a simple reason: It has to. 

The Web is not one of those magical plants that can grow in midair. It needs cash to live

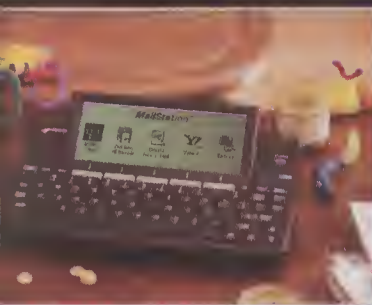


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E-mail for when

*I'm up to my eyeballs
in Strained peas.*



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Fans are forgotten in Napster flap

Should sharing culture online be a crime?

HAVE YOU EVER DOWNLOADED A COLUMN, PIECE OF MUSIC, VIDEO clip, or movie review from the Web and e-mailed it to your spouse or to your parents? Ever passed a cut from a hot new CD along to your pals at work, or taken a piece of writing like this one and sent it along to a former teacher, either as proof that there are gasbags and idiots loose on the Net, or as ammo to support some long-held position? ■ If the answer to any of these questions is yes, welcome to

the tens of millions of newly criminalized, copyright-violating Netizens.

The federal court ruling against **NAPSTER** [napster.com] in July, a major victory for the recording industry, temporarily ordered the online music-swapping service to stop permitting the exchange of copyrighted material. Despite the fact that it was overturned two days later, this ruling is the most significant copyright decision involving the Net. At stake is whether or not our shared culture can be owned and licensed by a handful of big companies. (If the authors of the Bible, Shakespeare, and Lewis Carroll, just to name a few, had been covered by the Digital Millennium Copyright Act and America's existing intellectual property laws, none of their works would have received a fraction of the attention or influence they've garnered.)

Copyright questions involving the Internet are a genuine quagmire. But a con-

vincing case can be made that new laws such as the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, the basis for many recent legal actions against so-called pirates, are a corporate perversion of the whole idea behind copyright and intellectual property.

The framers of the Constitution were seeking to protect artists and authors when they enacted copyright laws. The idea was that without some protection against copying and theft, writers would have no incentive to create new works. Copying books was difficult back then, and it was simple to enforce the law. The Net is another story. You can access much of the planet's archived intellectual property in seconds.

Napster and its cousins, **GNUTELLA** [gnutella.wego.com], **SCOUR** [scour.net], and **THE FREENET PROJECT** [freenet.sourceforge.net], are

just the tip of the boundless digital iceberg. Enterprising little geek elves are already hard at work designing software

and setting up new sites to facilitate the swapping of music, movies, and other forms of pop culture. You probably already know what federal judges don't seem to have learned: There aren't enough cops in the world to enforce copyright laws on the Net as they are now constituted.

For more than a decade, fans of music and other media have experienced an unprecedented period of free access to culture—free access that some are now calling “piracy.” An entire generation has grown up downloading like mad. And it has *not* been bad for business: Profits continue to soar. The “much-aggrrieved” recording industry posted a record \$15 billion in sales last year. There's evidence that CD sales go up when MP3 downloads are greatest.

Lost in this megabucks brawl is the individual fan—that would be you.

Napster says 20 million people have downloaded its software. But listeners, who have benefited financially and culturally from the free exchange of material on the Web, aren't represented in court. Fans are constituents in their own folklore and have the right to freely access and share their own culture. If the Recording Industry Association of America wins its battle against Napster, music lovers and other consumers will be the biggest losers.

Common sense would dictate that new ways of protecting artists and corporations be found that recognize the reality of the Net. But common sense hasn't yet made its way into the debate on how current law will be applied—or not applied—to the Internet. Virtually all discussions of intellectual property in cyberspace are about responding to corporate and political anxieties about controlling text, images, sounds, and information.

That's valid, but it doesn't go far enough. Some of the talk ought to be about the Net's greatest achievement and legacy: the access individuals now have to their shared culture at little or no cost.

There aren't enough cops in the world to enforce copyright laws on the Net as they are now constituted



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Cards

Don't drop a bomb with QuickTime

Plus: Publishing horrors online, the would-be VP on Internet vice, singing a song for Slobodan, and the first pregnant man goes 'Pop'



Red riff: According to Modern Humorist, this poster from its series Propaganda in the Internet Age says: "I recognize that stealing music is unethical, but I'm protected by my sense of irony." [modernhumoriststore.com/mp3poster.html]

Download: Danger

"You can never be too careful" seems to be the philosophy of Apple's lawyers, who share the following warning with those who download QUICKTIME, the company's audio-video player.

THE APPLE SOFTWARE IS NOT intended for use in the operation of nuclear facilities, aircraft navigation or communication systems, or air traffic control machines in which case the failure of the Apple software could lead to death, personal injury, or severe physical or environmental damage. Your rights under this License will terminate automatically without notice from Apple if you fail to comply with any term(s) of this License. [quicktime.com]

King of the Net

When **STEPHEN KING** published the first part of his novel *The Plant* online, he rolled the dice—and won. According to the author, 76 percent of online readers paid the requisite \$1, taking King up on the following challenge, issued on his site.

MY FRIENDS, WE HAVE A CHANCE to become Big Publishing's worst nightmare. Not only are we going glueless, look Ma, no e-Book! No tiresome encryption! Want to print it and show it to a friend? Go ahead! There's only one catch: All this is on the honor system. Has to be. I'm counting on two things. The first is plain old honesty. "Take what you want and pay for it," as the old saying goes. The second is that you'll like the story enough to want to read more. If you do want more, you have to pay. Remember: Pay and the story rolls. Steal and the story folds. No stealing from the blind newsboy! [stephenking.com/download.html]

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Now you can add BUYING and FINANCING cars to the list of things that feel REALLY GOOD.

The cynics among us may scoff at the notion that buying a car could leave you with a warm, fuzzy feeling. But why shouldn't it? After all, man has invented spreadable fruit and the robotic lawn mower. Why not painless car buying? Introducing giggo.com, the revolutionary online service that puts car research, easy financing and purchasing power at your fingertips.

1 Compare hundreds of cars wearing nothing but your undies.

When you log on to giggo.com, it doesn't matter if you prefer thongs, boxers, briefs, or your birthday suit (of course, your mother would advise you that your underwear of choice should at least be clean). Every make, every model is as close as your keyboard. Compare all standard features and available options. Use the giggocalculator to figure out how much car you can afford. It's a real breeze (you may want to throw on something warm).



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FIG. #7A: THINGS that FEEL REALLY GOOD, if not GREAT



2 Loan approval in 30 minutes?! That's gotta feel good.

After you spend a few moments filling out our easy step-by-step application, you'll get an answer in just a half an hour. No more painful meetings spent scrutinizing your credit history. While you wait, get a half-hour massage or have your eyebrows waxed. When you return, you'll be feeling really, really good.

Loan Amount

\$25,000

Choose your term:

60

Manufacturer:

Acura

Credit rating?

Excellent

FIG. #7B: THE CAR BUYING MATRIX



3 Hot diggety dog! Now you're ready to buy a car.

You've already been approved for a giggoloan, you've done all your research and now you're ready to negotiate yourself a great deal. Cool. We'll put you in touch with one of our Preferred Dealers. (Not only does giggo.com prefer them, but you'll prefer dealing with them, too.) You'll receive a gigocheck overnight, giving you the power to negotiate as a cash buyer. Shazzam, that feels good!



Think having your shoulders rubbed feels good? Just wait till you buy a car with giggo.com.

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We've got this car thing down.

Lieberman Wired

Sen. **JOE LIEBERMAN**'s testimony before the Children's Online Protection Act Commission may predict his attitude toward the Net if he's elected vice president. In the excerpt below, Lieberman recommends solutions for keeping the Net safe.

THE BALANCE OF RIGHTS AND responsibilities that has been eroding in the old media is essentially nonexistent in the new. There are practically no stop signs on the information superhighway. There are no recognizable boundaries, no common norms, no shared sense of accountability.

This digital diversity is no revelation to you or to experienced "Netizens," who are well aware of the wide array of sites devoted to bombmaking, bestiality, and many other expressions of antisocial behavior. These faithful users know that the Net, while offering incredible riches of information, education, and communication, has also caught just about every form of depravity known to humanity and put it on display for all the world, including our children, to see....

The Internet risks squandering the trust of America's parents, and the unparalleled potential to educate and elevate our children, if we do not find a way to draw some basic lines. In short, the Net, like any large, interactive community, can't stand long without standards....

I would make three brief suggestions for you to consider. One is familiar to the old media industries, and that is to adopt a common, self-enforcing code of conduct. I know the international online community is still having trouble settling on a governing structure, let alone reaching agreement on shared standards of conduct. But if the Internet is going to continue to grow, it must self-regulate, and if it self-regulates, it must start with some basic principles.

The second is...the concept of zoning...creating a special domain to accommodate X-rated or other forms of adult content and segregate it away from kids...in effect establish a virtual red-light district....In doing this, we would ask the arbiters of the Internet to simply abide by the same standard as the proprietor of an X-rated movie theater or the owner of a convenience store who sells sexually



Heart of Havana. *On the Web, photographers offer many candid shots of Cuba. The online images by Brooklyn-based artist Chuck Moss chronicle the action on the island's stoops and in its saloons and back rooms. [wcmoss.com]*

explicit magazines.

Lastly, I would encourage you in your deliberations to look at the increasing prevalence of violent online games. I have been concerned for some time about the effect some of the more gruesome and savagely antisocial video games have on young boys. Online games can be harmful to kids, and I hope you will examine some options

for limiting children's access to them.

Again, these are suggestions. I am not here to present answers. But I do know who should decide them, and that is the online community. I am very reluctant to criminalize speech or advocate any form of censorship—I was one of 16 Senators who voted against the Communications Decency Act—and I am doubtful

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Mr. Mom

Lee Mingwei aims to be the first man to give birth, or so says his Web site, **POP! THE FIRST HUMAN MALE PREGNANCY**. In the following excerpt from an interview with Janice Versalius of PaperVeins magazine, Mr. Lee explains his decision to have a baby.

Janice: Mr. Lee, male pregnancy may prove to be an extremely dangerous medical procedure at this point—particularly when your doctors perform your cesarean operation. Why have you chosen to do this?

Mr. Lee: A lot of people have cast this endeavor as something terribly monstrous—a startling example of how science and medicine have simply gone too far. From my perspective, however, I am simply bringing a child into this world. There is nothing more natural and beautiful on this earth than that. This is something that I've always wanted to do.

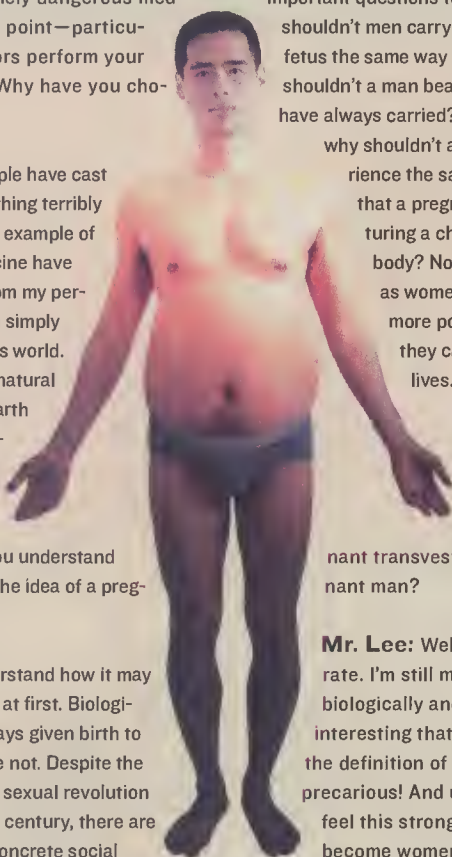
Janice: But surely you understand why some people find the idea of a pregnant man disturbing?

Mr. Lee: Well, I understand how it may be a shocking concept at first. Biologically, women have always given birth to children, and men have not. Despite the dramatic results of the sexual revolution in the latter half of this century, there are still very distinct and concrete social roles determined by this...until now...undeniable

biological fact. Now, it seems, we have several important questions to consider. Why shouldn't men carry children and care for a fetus the same way a woman does? Why shouldn't a man bear a burden that women have always carried? On the other hand, why shouldn't a man be able to experience the same joy and excitement that a pregnant woman feels nurturing a child within her own body? Now I think men, as well as women, have more choices, more possibilities, more roles they can assume in their lives.

Janice: How would you respond to people who would consider you a pregnant transvestite and not a pregnant man?

Mr. Lee: Well, it's not really accurate. I'm still male, after all—biologically and anatomically. It's interesting that some people believe the definition of being a man is so precarious! And unlike the men who feel this strong desire to physically become women, I've never wished for that...and I haven't done that.



[www.malepregnancy.com]

that the U.S. Government could succeed in controlling this global medium on its own even if it tried. At the same time, I also know the risk the online community takes by doing nothing and thereby inviting Congress to pass new laws, which I believe it will do if the private sector fails to act. We can expect more court fights, more wasted time, more harm to children, and ultimately the Web will turn into a hornet's nest.

I am hopeful that we can avoid that spiral downward. [amb-usa.fr/washfile/friday/524.htm]

Freaky "Für Elise"

If your computer randomly plays classical music and you've wondered why, **MICROSOFT** can explain.

DURING NORMAL OPERATION OR IN Safe mode, your computer may play "Für Elise" or "It's a Small, Small World" seemingly at random. This is an indication sent to the PC speaker from the computer's BIOS that the CPU fan is failing or has failed or that the power supply voltages have drifted. [support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q261/1/86.ASP]

Slobodan Song

At **FREE SERBIA**, visitors can listen to and download a song called "Save Serbia Slobodan!" The lyrics, written by Narodni Pesnik, call for Slobodan Milosevic, president of Serbia, to commit suicide.

MR. PRESIDENT'S SPEECH...

*You called me a mercenary,
A no good junkie on a killing spree.
We all know well that you told a lie.
Try to cross your heart and you'll surely die.*

*You said I was a traitor to doubt,
A spying witch with a Swiss account.
Your police took my rights away,
So listen for a minute, I have something to say.*

*Save Serbia and be a man,
kill yourself, Slobodan
Save Serbia and be a man,
kill yourself, Slobodan*

*You called me a renegade,
A blood thirsty killer in the streets of Belgrade.
You're the one who sent my brother to die,
Everything you say is such a lie.*

*Fascist Youth is what I am to you,
A dirty thief and an anarchist too.
But I won't quit, 'cause I'm here to stay,
So listen for a minute, I have something to say.*

*Save Serbia and be a man,
kill yourself, Slobodan
Save Serbia and be a man,
kill yourself, Slobodan*

*You claim we're payed
by the enemy,
Selling out our country eagerly.
There's no future with you
in the chair,
Wars, death, hate, eternal despair.*

*Your TV says we are very few,
Losers with nothing better to do.
You know very well we're the heroes today,
So listen for a minute, we have something to say.*

*Save Serbia and be a man,
kill yourself, Slobodan
Save Serbia and be a man,
kill yourself, Slobodan*
[www.freaserbia.org]

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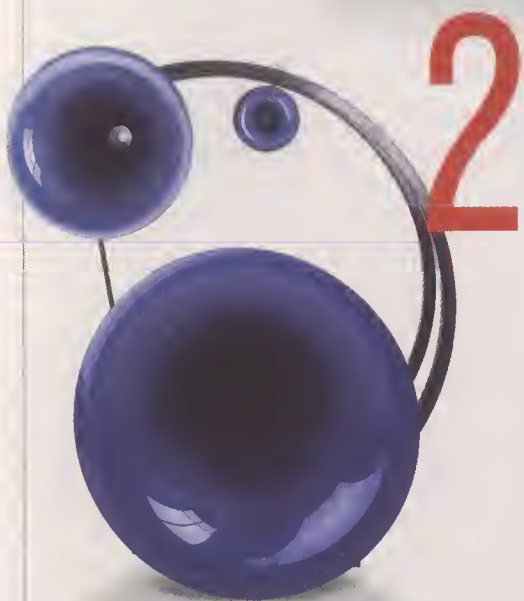
AURAL FIXATION

You can't see sound. But that doesn't mean your speakers can't look good while bringing out the best in your digital music collection. Most computer subwoofers get tucked under a table or desk, but not the **Apple iSUB (1)**, a transparent beauty made by Harman Multimedia. Designed specifically for the latest iMacs, the iSub has a bass kick that starts way down at 44Hz. The stunning (and staggeringly expensive) **Avantgarde TRIO HORN SPEAKER (2)** is a work of art and a revolution in audio design. The energy-efficient horns produce ultra-realistic sound that's beyond traditional speaker technology. Is it sci-fi or hi-fi? **Blueroom's MINIPOD (3)** is a little of both, perfect for ambient escape or thumping drum-and-bass. Self-powered units for your PC are coming soon.

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[harman-multimedia.com]

(2) \$36,970
[avantgardeusa.com]

(3) \$399
[www.minipod.com]





4 DARK VISIONS

Ah, the things we could do with the Night Owl Goggles. If it weren't for that unfortunate restraining order. But we digress. Produced in Russia at a former Soviet military factory, the goggles are a post-Cold War peace dividend for people who need to see stuff when it's dark. Hunters, for example. Or nocturnal club kids. The goggles amplify the faintest available light by a factor of 35,000, or illuminate a completely dark scene with infrared light that's visible only through the goggles. There are also smaller, monocular versions.

NIGHT OWL GOGGLES
\$600, Night Owl Optics
[nightowloptics.com]



5 CLEAR SHOT

The Samsung SDC-80 won't garner you a Pulitzer Prize for photography, but the simple and inexpensive digital camera should do just fine for weekend snapshots and budding young paparazzi. The camera comes in four translucent colors, each representing a season (pictured is the spring green). Features include a detachable flash, an LCD viewfinder, and 4MB of built-in memory (you can add more memory with SmartMedia cards). The camera's 850,000-pixel resolution is modest by current standards, but it's sufficient for snapping images destined for Web pages and e-mail.

SDC-80 DIGITAL CAMERA
\$199, Samsung
[samsungusa.com]



6 MAGIC BOX

Intel's Dot.Station Web appliance is targeted at those who don't yet have a PC (not you—must it *always* be about you?—but your technophobic friends and country cousins). The simple device offers Net browsing, e-mail, a suite of home organization applications, and even a built-in telephone. Support for popular plug-ins will allow Jethro to check out multimedia content. The Dot.Station is available through ISPs and other companies, such as banks and e-commerce retailers, that provide Net services.

DOT.STATION
Price varies by provider, Intel
[intel.com]

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[this is the sound of your hand
hitting your head after you find out
you could have designed your web
pages faster, easier, and cheaper
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Staring at starvation: refugees on the Web

A new site reminds the world that crises shape everyday life in resettlement camps

WHEN LOOKING INTO THE EYES OF A STARVING CHILD IS PART OF YOUR normal workday, as it is for many of the volunteers who staff Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the plight of the refugee is at the forefront of your consciousness. To counter widespread ignorance about the hardships faced by the world's 50 mil-

lion refugees and to show the world firsthand what it means to live in inhuman conditions, MSF is spreading the word with a full-scale replica of a refugee camp and a new, high-tech Web site.

MSF's first camp replica went up in Paris in 1996. That camp will make its debut in the U.S. this fall, appearing in New York City in September and Los Angeles in October. MSF, which won the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize, has transported its 7,000-square-foot exhibit to 10 countries in the past four years. And now it has reduced the exhibit to two dimensions at REFUGEECAMP.ORG. A team from Paper(media), a Web design firm based in San Francisco, volunteered to design the site for MSF.

Drawing on his own experience of working in a refugee resettlement village in El Salvador, Marc Yergovich directed the team at Paper(media), which spent several months recreating the exhibit and building the site. Throughout the process, Yergovich thought of his time in El Salvador, and of the faces and stories that defined his experience there. "A woman in the camp once asked me if I realized that there weren't any dolls there," Yergovich remembers. "She said that soldiers had put dolls under trees seeded with mines, so anyone who picked one up might be exploded with her whole family. Needless to say, dolls weren't considered playthings after that."

Yergovich worked closely on the site with Edward Kats, who himself had come to the U.S. as a refugee. When he was growing up in Ukraine, Kats's family had no phone—let alone a computer. "Memories of those days colored my approach to Refugeecamp.org," says Kats. After coming to the U.S. to study, he took up Web design as a way of marrying his two loves: art and technology.

In close consultation with MSF staffers, Yergovich, Kats, and several of their Paper(media) colleagues decided that the site should convey the daily challenges faced by people who are driven from their homes into temporary settlements by political and environmental forces beyond their control. "We wanted to introduce the reality faced by refugees: Everything you have is gone," says Yergovich. "You don't know where or how you'll eat, drink, or sleep, and you live in fear of land mines, cholera, and malnutrition."

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ViewSonic's PF790 and A75f are available at:



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Although the makeshift settlements are meant to provide temporary shelter, many refugees spend years in them. The Web site aims not to evoke sympathy but to offer a detailed portrait of survival in a camp. A visit to the site begins with a brief film, made from a refugee's perspective and depicting feelings of displacement and insecurity.

Nine sections on the site cover the day-to-day realities of camp existence, with each section devoted to a central concern. Audio

'Soldiers had put dolls under trees seeded with mines, so anyone who picked one up might be exploded with her whole family'

and video clips are integrated with text that explains, for example, how camps set up latrines. One section demonstrates the difficulty of maintaining a clean, potable water supply. Each section uses photographs from actual camps and includes a Learn More option.

While developing an advanced site that incorporates multimedia technology could normally cost a client more than \$150,000, Paper(media) created Refugeecamp.org free of charge, according to founder Turodrique Fuad. The project marks the third time Fuad and his company have built a site for a nonprofit; they also designed the official Web site of the 1999 Tibetan Freedom Concert. "A lot of dot-com professionals take on the persona of rock stars," Fuad says, "but we've found that we attract our best talent by taking on pro bono projects."

Few displaced persons are likely to log on to Refugeecamp.org anytime soon, but MSF and Paper(media) hope that refugees will nevertheless be aided—and their lives, touched—as people learn about their situation and donate time, resources, or other forms of support. Says Stephanie Davies, MSF director of public education: "Raising awareness is the first step toward making a difference."

CHAT WITH MSF REFUGEE EXPERTS ON SEPTEMBER 27, 4 P.M. EASTERN, AT CHAT.YAHOO.COM.

SMALL TOUCHES



BRIDGING GAPS

[halftheplanet.com]

A decade after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a new Web site is working to ensure that the rights that were gained by physically challenged individuals aren't now eroded. And informing visitors about the ongoing legal and political concerns of disabled Americans is just one goal of HALFTHEPLANET.COM. One in five Americans has a disability of some kind; the site offers resources for these 55 million people, including an excellent travel section that helps wheelchair users gain access to cruise ships, beaches, and baseball stadiums. On the site's message boards, surfers share tips and post information about events.

answers to your queries. Find out, for example, how ginkgo biloba works, what conditions it's used to treat, and what clinical trials have shown about its efficacy in improving memory. You may have difficulty getting past some of the site's medical jargon, but the breadth of the coverage makes up for that.

KEEPING STREETS SAFE

[communityjustice.org]

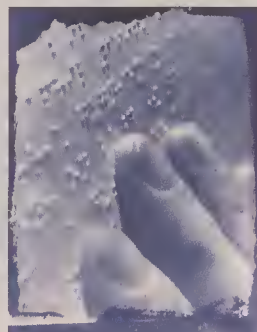
Murder and robbery grab the headlines, but lesser infractions such as vandalism can break the spirit of a community. To help stop low-level crime, a new site encourages citizens to clean up their neighborhoods by drawing on the experiences of similar groups across the country. "Our site highlights innovative programs where judges, cops, and prosecutors

have teamed up with community groups to solve local problems like prostitution and juvenile delinquency," says Eric Lee, deputy director of the Center for Court Innovation, a nonprofit research center that operates the **COMMUNITY JUSTICE EXCHANGE**. The site describes successful cooperative efforts and offers a planning guide that is designed to help local assemblies start using new strategies for keeping cities clean and safe.

MAILING BRAILLE

[hotbraille.com]

When a *Y-Life* editor recently wanted to drop a few lines to a friend who is blind, HOTBRAILLE.COM proved a timely find. The site's

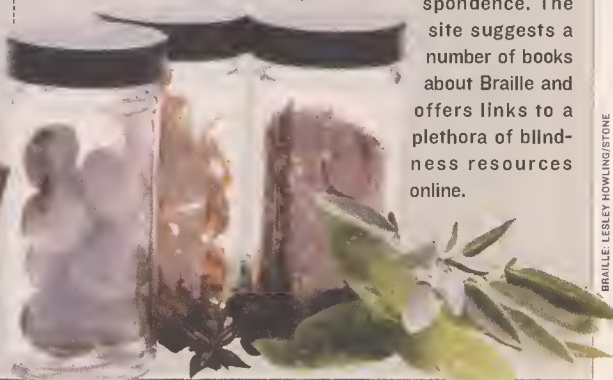


main attraction is a free service that translates messages into Braille and sends them by snail mail to anyone in the world. Hot-Braille also offers introductory lessons for those who want to create their own Braille correspondence. The site suggests a number of books about Braille and offers links to a plethora of blindness resources online.

INVESTIGATING HERBS

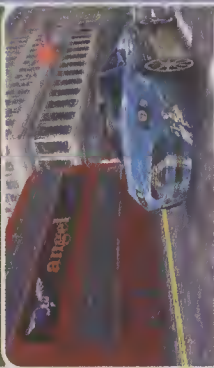
[amfoundation.org/herbmed.htm]

The next time you're wondering whether an herbal remedy you've heard about has any value, log on to the Alternative Medicine Foundation's **HERBMED** for quick yet detailed



Get to the finish line any freakin' way you can.

8 new screaming machines are hitting the streets of San Francisco and London. Not to mention the buildings, fountains and shopping malls. The only rule in this race is: There aren't any rules.



MIDTOWN MADNESS 2

www.microsoft.com/games/midtown2



Microsoft

OLD WAY | NET WAY

COMPARING THE **TRIED-AND-TRUE** WITH THE **NET-AND-NEW** BY DAVID SHEFF

Changing address books

OLD WAY

1 In the *old old* (precomputer) days, I carried around a Filofax address book. To update it, I scribbled on the pages. When it got too cluttered and I needed a new address book, the process was incredibly tedious: I had to rewrite or retype the whole thing.

2 Next, in the old (pre-Internet, pre-Palm) days, it was easier. I used Time & Chaos, a calendar and address book program. I changed and added information as I went along. Whenever I wanted an updated version to take with me, I printed out a new book that fit into my Filofax.

TIME ELAPSED:

The Old Old Way took days. The Old Way took minutes to print out a new address book.

COMMENTS: Computers revolutionized address books.

NET WAY

1 Decided that it was time to join the Net and PDA era. Invested in a PalmPilot.

2 Downloaded software that exports Time & Chaos files to a format used by Palm.

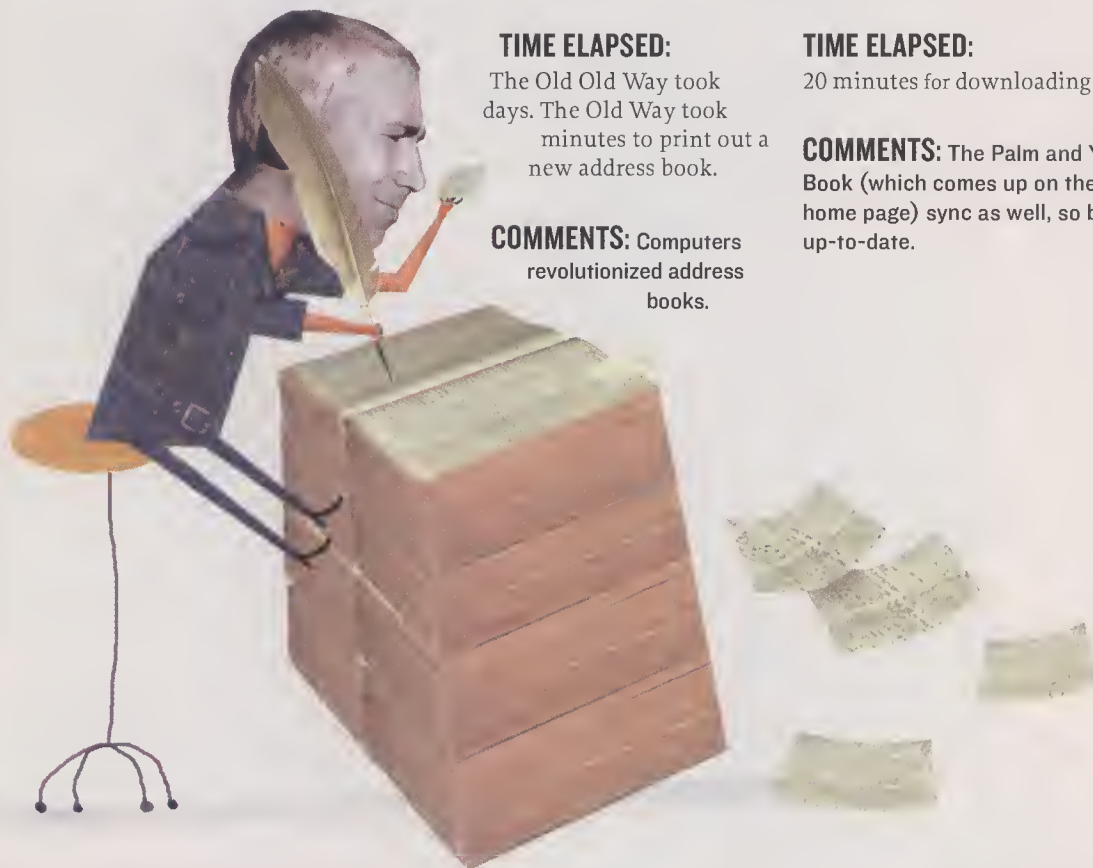
3 Following the online instructions, "sync'd" the two.

4 Took it to the next step so that I would have access to my information even if I forgot my Palm. Exported my address book to a file readable by **YAHOO! ADDRESS BOOK** [address.yahoo.com].

TIME ELAPSED:

20 minutes for downloading and syncing

COMMENTS: The Palm and Yahoo! Address Book (which comes up on the My Yahoo! home page) sync as well, so both are always up-to-date.



► **WINNER: NET WAY** Even just using a PDA is great too.

They used to call
you a nerd.
Now they call you
for capital.



GAMES



AUCTION



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MUSEUMS



SHOPPING

Business Plan
Competition

Test your techno-trivia on brain games and engage in a host of nerdy activities at **thecomputerbowl.org**.

You'll find a charity auction & shops full of techno-treasures, a range of amusements, and opportunities to have your Business Plan read by venture capital luminaries. To compete in Round 1 of the eBrainGame, log on to download the "key" now. All nerds welcome. Be there...and be square.



the computer bowl .org
2000

the nerdiest philanthropy in the world

eFlicksMedia.com

Searching for Maoisms



OLD WAY

1 Our local library didn't have *Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung* (published before the English spelling of his name was modernized to Mao Zedong), which I needed for an article I was writing. There were many books about Mao, some of which were filled with sayings.

2 Tried *The International Thesaurus of Quotations*, which had a dozen or so Maoisms.

TIME ELAPSED:
3 hours

COMMENTS: There is an enormous body of material about Mao.

NET WAY

1 Searched for *Mao Zedong*. Of the sites devoted to him, several mentioned quotations.

2 Hit pay dirt with Art Bin's **QUOTATIONS FROM CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG** [art-bin.com/art/omaotoc.html], which categorizes its offerings by topic. Searched, then printed out the quotes.

TIME ELAPSED:
2 minutes searching

COMMENTS: Books have more context, but the quotes on the Net were easier to find.

► **WINNER: TIE** Both ways provided useful (but different) quotes.

Buying beluga

OLD WAY

1 For a special anniversary, decided to splurge on caviar to go along with a great bottle of Champagne we had been saving. Visited a local gourmet shop, where the best-quality beluga was \$55 an ounce.

2 Next I checked a discount store called Beverages & More, where the same brand of beluga, Lafayette, was \$37 an ounce.

TIME ELAPSED:
10 minutes on the phone

COMMENTS: There's a good recipe for blini, to accompany the caviar, in the cookbook *Emeril's Creole Christmas*.

NET WAY

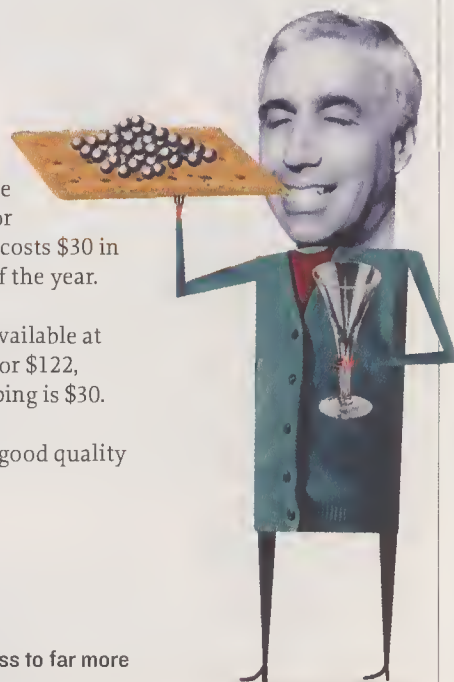
1 The **CAVIARERIA** in New York [caviareria.com] had two qualities of beluga, at \$58 and \$78 per ounce. There was also Ultra, one of the best varieties in the world, for \$100 an ounce. Overnight delivery costs \$30 in the summer months, \$20 the rest of the year.

2 The smallest quantity of beluga available at **TAVOLO** [tavolo.com] is 50 grams for \$122, which is about \$69 per ounce. Shipping is \$30.

3 Headed to Beverages & More for good quality caviar at the best price.

TIME ELAPSED:
10 minutes online

COMMENTS: The Net provides access to far more varieties, including the world's best.



► **WINNER: OLD WAY** Overnight shipping, which is essential, makes the Net Way much more expensive.

How to make intelligent, safe and cost-conscious decisions every time you buy insurance. At Quotesmith.com you get instant quotes from over 300 companies – and the freedom to buy from the company of your choice. It's fast and easy.

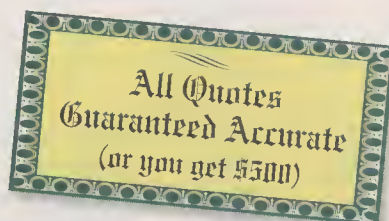
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Instant Term Life Insurance Quotes

Pick a rate guarantee and go! In seconds, you'll view policies, coverages, independent ratings, underwriting guidelines and premiums – all conveniently sorted by lowest cost.



Quotesmith.com makes it easy to compare health plans, features and prices.

Instant Medical Insurance Quotes

Here is the quickest way possible to find health insurance coverage for yourself, your family or your small business. Get instant quotes, scan the marketplace in seconds. You'll find standard plans, PPOs, HMOs, short term plans, dental plans and Medicare supplement plans all in one place at Quotesmith.com. Participation by leading companies eliminates the hassle of buying medical insurance.

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- Instant Term Life Quotes**
View America's lowest premiums - or you get \$500!
- Quick-Issue Life Insurance Quotes**
 - No medical exams, speedy issue
- Instant Medicare Supplement Quotes**
Quick quotes for ages 65 & up
- Instant Medical Insurance Quotes**
 - For individuals & families
 - One employee or one family
 - Groups of 2-100 employees
- Instant Workers' Compensation Quotes**
For Small Businesses
- Instant Dental Insurance Quotes**
Small Business/Families/Individuals
- Instant Boat, Watercraft, RV & Motorcycle Insurance Quotes**

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"We found the best deals at Quotesmith."
Money Magazine

"SmartMoney Interactive has rated Quotesmith the #1 site for online insurance quotes."
SmartMoney Online

"...make shopping for the cheapest insurance policy much easier."
Parents Magazine

"...the largest number of insurers..."
Jane Bryant Quinn

BBB RELIABILITY PROGRAM
BBB Online

More instant insurance quotes than any place else on earth! Get instant quotes, view the latest ratings, examine vital policy coverages, view underwriting guidelines, buy from the company of your choice. Take control of your insurance decisions. Have questions? Want help? Call us toll-free at 1-800-556-9393, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Central time. California and Utah DBA: Quotesmith.com Insurance Services, CA #0827712, #0A13858, UT #90083. Some companies are shown for purely informational purposes only. \$500 guarantee is subject to the terms and conditions detailed at www.quotesmith.com.

www.quotesmith.com

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INCREDIBLY USEFUL SITES™

THIS MONTH'S PRACTICAL DESTINATIONS BY RICHARD BUTNER



Compare Your Pay

YEAH, EVERYONE FEELS OVERWORKED AND underpaid, but underpaid by exactly how much? Find out at **SALARY.COM**, which offers free salary information by job title and geographic location. The site hosts a comprehensive list of jobs, each with a detailed description that lets you match up what you do with what you should be making. Are you earning as much as you could be? Get the raise you deserve by backing up your request with hard data.

Analyze Your Investments

MANY FOLKS BOUGHT INTO MUTUAL FUNDS willy-nilly in the '90s, only to discover that their investments didn't quite jibe with their political and ethical leanings. At **CALVERT GROUP INDIVIDUAL INVESTORS: KNOW WHAT YOU OWN** [calvert.com/investor/ind-sri-know.html], you can enter a mutual fund name and a "social screen" to find out, for instance, how much of a particular fund is invested in nuclear power, tobacco, or firearms (although, unfortunately, not mime schools or horse-meat processing). You can also screen mutual funds by the ethnic diversity of their boards. The site is run by the Calvert Group, which is obviously angling to sell you its own socially responsible funds, but you can use the tool for free.

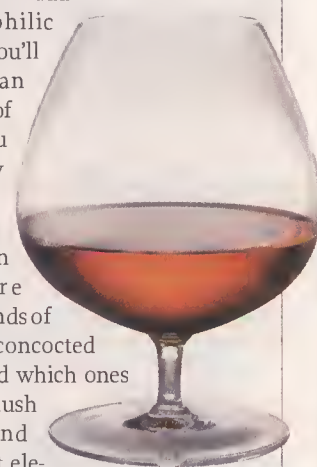
Master Difficult Vocabulary

IS A BRICOLE A SMALL brick? French underwear? A new teen pop sensation? Find lexicographical enlightenment at **LI LEARNING: DICTIONARY OF DIFFICULT WORDS**

[www.lineone.net/dictionaryof/difficultwords], where you'll learn that a bricole is an "indirect stroke," as in billiards or court tennis. Search by word or browse by letter when you're stumped by an expression in a Nabokov novel or when you simply want to add some glamour to your own vocabulary. You'll find close to 14,000 definitions, from *aasvogel* to *zymo-plastic*, including many foreign words and phrases not listed in standard dictionaries.

Uncap Fine Beverages

IN PAST ISSUES WE'VE HIGHLIGHTED SEVERAL good wine sites, but if your tastes veer toward the harder stuff, pull up a seat at **TASTINGS.COM**. In addition to oenophilic information, you'll find more than 1,000 reviews of spirits that you can search by type, rating, and price. You can also learn how they are made, what kinds of drinks can be concocted from them, and which ones are the best: "Plush mouthfeel" and "assertive fruit elements," for example, earn Bombay Sapphire the site's top rating for gin. Dig a bit further for information about beer, brewpubs, wineries, and wine stores.



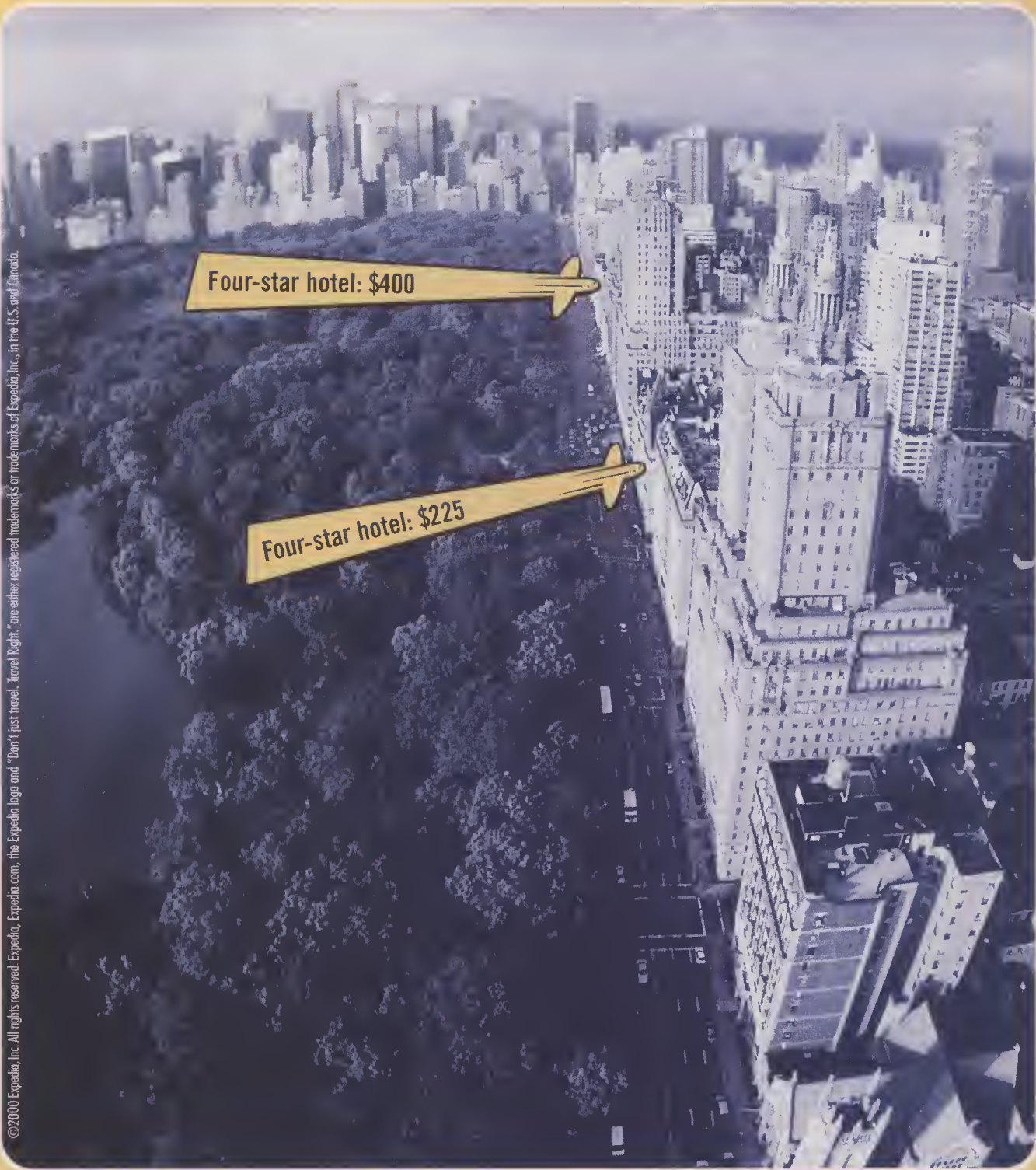
Sleuth for Free

LOTS OF WEB OUTFITS PROMISE PUBLIC-record searches as well as private investigations—but almost all are expensive. Save scratch by launching your info quest at **SEARCH SYSTEMS** [pac-info.com], a listing of searchable public databases organized by state. All are free. You'll trip across some broken links, but you'll also uncover information that would usually cost you something on other sites, including bankruptcy records, property values, sex-offender listings, and professional licenses. (Then read our special report on privacy, page 98, to see where all this is going.)

Make Informed Decisions

WE LOVE PERSONALOGIC GUIDES, which help us make difficult choices by asking questions and providing suggestions based on the answers. AOL features a broad range of them in **PERSONALOGIC DECISION GUIDES**





Four-star hotel: \$400

Four-star hotel: \$225

Introducing Expedia Special Rates.[®] Through direct negotiations with our hotel partners, we offer you exclusive prices on top quality hotels that beat standard rates by up to 70%. Plus you'll get all the other insights you need so you don't just book a trip, you book the right trip. Book the perfect flight. Reserve the right car. Easy and secure transactions, all at the right price. Backed by our 24-hour customer support.



Expedia.com[®]

Don't just travel. Travel Right.[™]



[www.personalogic.com]. Whether you're buying a car or a digital camera, or trying to pick a recipe or the best form of exercise, you can get help here. The site can even lead you to figure out which presidential candidate shares your views. Go to AOL keyword: *personalogic*. Step through the questions about features, pricing, and brands; adjust your priorities; and voilà: You can nail down which product or service is the best choice for you.

Review the Reviewers

EVERYONE'S GOT AN OPINION, BUT WHEN you're about to plunk down some serious cash for a new computer or camera, you need to know which one you can trust. **CONSUMERSEARCH** [consumersearch.com] helps you dig through the dross to find the reviews that provide in-depth, expert information. The site compiles hundreds of reviews of myriad products, then goes a step further by analyzing the reviews themselves and ranking the credibility of those who wrote them. In a hurry to learn about digital cameras or coffee makers? ConsumerSearch summarizes the opinions of top reviewers in the Full Story sections.

ID Your Stuff

BURGLARIES AND NATURAL DISASTERS happen every day. When they do, a complete inventory of your possessions makes dealing with law enforcement or the insurance company easier. That's where **YOURLOCKBOX.COM** comes in. Register for free, then use the Inventory Wizard to build a list of your belongings—including the make, model, serial number, and a photo of each item, if you have one. You'll be prepared when the worst happens. And because the information is on a secure site, no thief or tornado can carry it away.

Scout Autumn Scenery

KIDS ARE BACK IN SCHOOL, football is on TV, and leaves on the trees are changing from green to red, brown, and gold. Wondering about the best places and times to immerse yourself in the colors of the season? Check out **WEATHER.COM: FALL FOLIAGE** [www.weather.com/outdoors/fall], which provides reports from across the country, as well as maps that mark the local foliage as near peak, peak, or past peak.



INCREDIBLY USEFUL DOWNLOADS

MONITOR AUCTIONS

Hard-core auction enthusiasts don't limit themselves to a single site. No, when you've absolutely got to have a 19th-century nickel-plated absinthe spoon, it's important to place simultaneous bids at multiple auction sites. Confusing? Yes. Impossible? Not with **AUCTIONTAMER** [auctiontamer.com], a custom Web browser that includes integrated auction monitoring for sites from eBay to uBid. Simply find an item that interests you and add it to a watch list for one of the sites. AuctionTamer will keep track of the remaining time, number of bids, and highest bid for each auction you follow. *From \$10, depending on features; free trial.*

WATCH THE WORLD

Add global features to your Web browser with **EARTH-NAVIGATOR 3.0** [earthnavigator.com] and bring the world right to your desktop. The coolest feature is a free-floating realistic globe you can put anywhere on your screen. Click and drag to rotate it; select two points and check the distance between them; or double-click on a country to pull up a Web site with related information. If you turn on the Smart Places option, the browser will look for a place-name on any Web page you're viewing and highlight it on the globe. You can also opt to have the globe shaded where it's night. There are more than 60 search engines built into the browser. *Free; ad-free version is \$18.*

BE AN MP3 DEEJAY

Yo, bring the noise! You don't have to be an experienced deejay to sound as if you've been spinning for years. With **MIXMEISTER 2.0** [mixmeister.com], you can segue audio files together like a radio or club disc jockey, creating a mix for an all-night party or burn-your-own CD-R. With a few clicks you import your MP3 files and create a playlist, then step back and let MixMeister play your music without interruption. MixMeister can detect the beats per minute of your music, so you can select songs with similar tempos and sequence them to create a seamless flow of music for dancing or working out. Songs are graphically represented as waveforms, so you can see how loud the songs will be and where they'll overlap in the mix. *Free to try; \$30 to buy.*

—GOROON BASS

We invented consumer networking
for families with teenagers,
like the Patersons.



At SOHOware® we know what you're going through. We know how teenagers like to "hog" the Internet – for everything from downloading music to chatting with friends. Which is why we offer a variety of solutions that make it easy for everyone in your home to share a broadband high-speed Internet connection – and to monitor your teenager's Web activity and block out those sites you want off limits. It's also why we've gone the extra mile to make our products not only easy to use but easy on your budget (we know you have to put the kids through college). You can buy SOHOware products at local computer superstores or online from us. To learn more, visit our Web site, or you can call one of our customer representatives at 1-800-632-1118, ext. 2801. (That is, if your teenagers aren't hogging the phone, too).

SOHOware

We make networking personal.™

www.sohoware.com

Health Sites You Can Trust

IS SEARCHING FOR MEDICAL INFORMATION ON THE WEB MAKING you dizzy? That's not surprising. There are now nearly 20,000 sites targeting the 36.7 million Americans who seek health-related resources online, and online consumer health care spending is expected to reach \$1.7 billion annually by 2003.

As it has in industries such as travel and finance, the Web has made much more than just information available to those with medical questions. You can communicate with many health insurance companies—and even, in some cases, with your physician—over the Internet, as well as build and maintain online medical records.

With all these resources at hand, people are taking charge of their health like never before. At the same time, issues such as privacy, and the soundness of the information available on the

Web, are worrisome and real. The industry is trying to build consumer confidence with self-policing organizations such as the **HEALTH ON THE NET FOUNDATION**, the **IHC: INTERNET HEALTHCARE COALITION**, and the online-pharmacy watchdog **VIPPS**. Still, you must always be vigilant about getting your information from a reliable source.

Not sure whom to trust? Neither was I when I first logged on—and I'm a nurse practitioner with more than 26 years of experience. Now I'm also the health care editor for the **SILICON ALLEY REPORTER**, where I examine the industry under a microscope for the online newsletter **IHEALTHCAREWEEKLY.COM**. So, relax: These Gold Star sites make the grade with health care professionals and will prevent your wasting time online. Read on for relief.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...



Best Overall

CBSHEALTHWATCH BY MEDSCAPE
[cbs.medscape.com]

Health care information should be easy to find, comprehensive, and reliable. That's how it is at CBSHealthWatch, which is far less cluttered with pharmaceutical banner ads than its rivals. Founded by Medscape, the premier site for doctors and other health care providers, CBSHealthWatch was born after research showed that, despite Medscape's clear labeling as a site meant for professionals, consumers were flock-

ing to it. With easy access to Medscape and CBS's cache of quality health care coverage, the consumer site is the gateway to multiple resources. Warning to information addicts: This site can be habit-forming. (For an overview of the competition, see "Report Card," page 91.)

Best Online Pharmacy

FAMILYMEDS.COM
[familymeds.com]

Available in both English and Spanish, Familymeds has everything you need to

fill your prescription, as well as to obtain information on the medication and the condition for which it was prescribed. A registered pharmacist available to answer questions 24/7 helps make this site a winner. (For more information on online pharmacies, see "A Closer Look," page 92.)

Best Pediatric Site

DR. GREENE'S HOUSECALLS
[drgreene.com]

The first, and still the best, pediatric site. Dr. Greene is a board-certified pediatrician who takes calls—via e-mail. That's just in case your question hasn't already been answered by a search on the site. You can also access a pediatric encyclopedia to conduct



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Offer valid for new individual or joint accounts opened and funded between 9/13/00 and 11/7/00. Qualified Internet equity orders must execute within 30 days of account funding. \$500 minimum equity required to open your cash account. \$2,000 minimum equity required for margin accounts. Offer not valid for IRAs or with any other offer. Ameritrade reserves the right to restrict or revoke this offer at any time.—Report and Alert Service is provided by independent third parties. Service and information not guaranteed by Ameritrade.—This is not an offer or solicitation in any jurisdiction where we are not authorized to do business.—Market volatility and volume may delay system access and trade execution. If you experience difficulties, please contact 24-hour customer service, excluding market holidays.—Member NASD/SIPC. SIPC account protection is \$500,000, including \$100,000 in cash claims. An additional \$24.5 million in assets protection is provided. ©2000 Ameritrade. AOL keyword: ameritrade.

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☐ \$100,000+

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rity Number shown on this form is my correct
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ill have margin privileges and that when I
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ex, marital status, or age (provided that the applicant has the
ause all or part of the applicant's income is derived from public
nt has in good faith exercised any right under the Consumer

Date
Date

ATI 986-11 A 07/00

truly comprehensive research—then share it with other parents, teachers, and child care providers in the Community forum.

Best Medical Dictionary

MEDTERMS.COM

[www.medterms.com]

Written for the layperson in easy-to-understand language, MedTerms is produced by the physicians who wrote *Webster's New World Medical Dictionary*. Taking advantage of the medium, the team updates the database as necessary to reflect the rapid changes

and new additions to medical jargon and scientific terminology. And if you overhear your doctor discussing your case with a colleague, some white-coat slang is included.

Best Alternative Medical Information

NATIONAL CENTER FOR COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

[nccam.nih.gov]

Although you can't buy your herbal remedies here, you can get some hard facts. Part

of the federal government's National Institutes of Health, the NCCAM supports clinical research on alternative therapies. You need to spend time on the site to get what you want, but it's worth it.

Best Clinical Trials Resource

CENTERWATCH: CLINICAL TRIALS

LISTING SERVICE

[www.centerwatch.com]

CenterWatch is a nexus for resources

REPORT CARD Grading the Top Health Care Hubs

THE BASICS	INFORMATION	RESOURCES	PROFESSIONALS	TOOLS	OVERALL
CBSHEALTHWATCH BY MEDSCAPE [cbs.medscape.com]	A+ Forty Health Channels. Up-to-the-minute content, from basic to advanced. Read what your doctor reads, or a layman's version. Links to health-related CBS programs and news.	A+ Links to research databases widely used by experts: Medline, AIDS-line, and Toxline; <i>Yale Medical Test Guide</i> ; <i>Merriam-Webster's Medical Dictionary</i> . Copious drug database from the National Drug Data File.	A+ Former editor of the <i>Journal of the American Medical Association</i> , George Lundberg, M.D., holds the top position here. Stellar medical advisory board.	A- Other sites offer a wider variety, but what you get here is excellent, such as a tool that lets diabetics monitor blood sugar. Customizable home page.	A+
ONHEALTH [onhealth.com]	A Seven vertical channels—some with subdivisions, each with its own content. Broad range of material. Ability to scroll down via links.	A Partners with Cleveland Clinic and Harvard Medical School for original content, written and reviewed by professionals. Drug info by Multum Information Services, known for its interactions database.	A Each channel has resident expert columnists, including many M.D.'s and Ph.D.'s. Registered nurses take questions via telephone (\$10 per call) seven days a week, 14 hours a day.	A Numerous tools, including a Diet & Fitness Journal and an Ovulation Calendar.	A
WEBMD [webmd.com]	A Loads of it—and more, through links to many related and complementary sites.	A The <i>PDR Family Guide to Over-the-Counter Drugs</i> ; <i>Prescription Drug Reference</i> , by US Pharmacopoeia; <i>Medical Encyclopedia</i> by syndicator Adam.com; and <i>Yale Medical Test Guide</i> .	B Tend to be more lightweight: Dean Ornish, M.D., on lifestyle; Pepper Schwartz, Ph.D., on sex, among others.	A Keeps comprehensive health records, which are designed to be updated easily; the health-risk assessment test is worth the time.	A-
DRKOOP.COM [drkoop.com]	B- The former surgeon general's connections to health care companies make some professionals wary of info on certain topics, such as latex allergies, which Koop downplayed.	A <i>Medical Encyclopedia</i> by Adam.com; drug info from Multum Information Services.	A Drs. Nancy Snyderman and Bruce Hensel, of TV fame, are members of the medical advisory board, along with some other heavily degreed and titled physicians.	A A varied and comprehensive set of health and wellness tools—calculators, calendars, health-risk assessors—many of which are disease-specific.	B
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH [www.nih.gov]	A- It's all here. No direct links in the articles, so searches are a little more difficult, but you can dig—and dig and dig. Spanish-speaking folks will find a version in their language.	A+ Information from many authoritative sources. If it's a recognized resource, it's here, and you can usually access it yourself via a link.	A Although not responsible for content, the people behind the site are heavyweights. As acting NIH director, Dr. Ruth Kirschstein advises the Secretary of Health and Human Services.	F There are none. The site considers <i>tools</i> to mean links to other health care resources, databases, and organizations; there are many of these links.	C+

HOW WE RATED THE SITES: We looked at the 20 most visited U.S. health care sites and evaluated the breadth and depth of information; the sources of the information; the accessibility of related information; and support features, such as interactive tools. We also looked for the presence of respected health care professionals in significant roles. Testing took place during June and July 2000; grades do not reflect any features or upgrades that have been added since then.

related to the clinical testing of drugs, with separate sections devoted to patients and research professionals. The site provides in-depth background about how clinical trials are conducted and regulated. Those interested in participating in programs can search the database of national and international trials. Drugs newly approved by the FDA are indexed by disease.

Best Cancer Resource

ONCOLOGY.COM

[oncology.com]

With an editorial advisory board comprising some of the country's top oncologists and other cancer care professionals, this resource provides a comprehensive library, with journal links and a drug database. There are chatrooms for patients, as well as for family members and friends. Live events feature leaders in the cancer community, and an invaluable Personal Diary lets you list appointments, keep notes, and bookmark articles.

Best Women's Health Site

THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH INFORMATION CENTER

[www.4women.org]

Access to press releases from the Department of Health and Human Services covering women's health and related legislation, as well as links to medical dictionaries and encyclopedias, will make you a fountain of knowledge at lunch with the girls. Then go for your hot-stone massage.

Best Mental Health Resource

LIFESCAPE.COM

[lifescape.com]

The concept of online therapy is still evolving. Although not a substitute for professional counseling, this site does offer solid behavioral-health information. Think you might have an eating disorder or a problem with alcohol? Use the online assessment tools, or participate in one of the expert-moderated chats.

Best Disability Community

WEMEDIA

[wemedia.com]

Comprehensive and inviting, the Web counterpart to the lifestyle magazine covers concerns specific to the disability com-

munity, as well as general-interest news. The WeMedia Mall links to the online shops of brand-name retailers and provides personal shoppers. A portion of the proceeds goes to disability-related nonprofits.

Best Health Care Watchdog

QUACKWATCH


[www.quackwatch.com]

The nonprofit Quackwatch has been around since the late '60s and became a Net pioneer with the launch of its Web site in 1996. Founded by psychiatrist Stephen Barrett, who can make Ralph Nader look like a pussycat, the organization exposes quackery wherever it finds it. Users can report questionable sites and volunteer to become part of a Quackwatch Task Force.

Best Health Care Payment Facilitator

HEALTHALLIES.COM

[healthallies.com]

Negotiate with a hospital over a bill? Well, first you have to be able to read it. Headed up by a former health care insurance executive, HealthAllies provides a primer to teach you the ropes. It also offers WebBillCheck, a free service that evaluates your bill, checks it for errors, and then negotiates a better price for you if it determines that you were overcharged. Search the provider database to find the lowest going rates in your area for services not covered, or only partially covered, by health care insurance—including elective procedures, such as laser eye surgery. 

A Closer Look Online Pharmacies

Online pharmacies operate much like their real-world counterparts, offering health and beauty aids, over-the-counter and prescription medications—and, most important, the availability of a registered pharmacist to answer questions and give advice. The following e-tailers are all Vipps-certified, having met the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy's criteria for privacy, security, and quality. But be sure to consult your health insurance provider before ordering a prescription. To ensure coverage, you may be required to use a particular site.

DRUGSTORE.COM

[drugstore.com]

Thanks to prominent placement by Amazon.com, this is the most heavily trafficked site in the online pharmacy market. It is now associated with the Rite Aid chain.

Drug information: The Drug Index database lists side effects and contraindications. You can opt to receive a reminder when your prescription is up for reorder.

Health care resources: Information on specific diseases is available, but you have to dig.

Pharmacist on call: Registered pharmacists answer e-mail questions, usually within one business day. Customer service is available 24/7, online and by phone.

Bottom line: Like your local Rite Aid, the site pushes specials on beauty products as soon as you enter the store. You'll need to look elsewhere for serious health care info.

PLANETRX.COM

[planetrx.com]

Despite recent rumblings in *Barron's* about its impending demise, PlanetRx is still up and running—and just received a new round of equity financing.

Drug information: It provides A-to-Z drug resources as well as a searchable drug interaction database, which is produced in conjunction with Drkoop.com.

Health care resources: You can link to disease-

specific satellite sites, participate in live chats with experts, and join community forums devoted to topics ranging from Alzheimer's to weight loss. **Pharmacist on call:** Registered pharmacists are available to answer questions 24/7, online and by phone.

Bottom line: A healthy dose of resources makes PlanetRx a pretty good bet.

FAMILYMEDS.COM

[familymeds.com]

Created by the Arrow Corp., which operates prescription programs for hospitals and clinics, this site's top managers are registered pharmacists.

Drug information: It uses the same database as Drugstore.com, but inclusion of a pharmacy glossary, the Meds Index, makes the information easier to digest. The Patient Safety Program lists recent pharmaceutical industry warnings and recalls.

Health care resources: There are more than 300 disease-specific Health Clinics where you can get information, including pharmacist recommendations for over-the-counter, natural, and prescription remedies for a particular problem. The clinics also provide some very good first aid information.

Pharmacist on call: A pharmacist is available by phone 24/7, as is a customer service rep.

Bottom line: Our Gold Star winner, thanks to the depth and breadth of related health care resources.

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Compaq CV735 17" Monitor (16.0" VIA)
Personalize by choosing:
Agfa Snap Scan USB Scanner: Add \$99
Fujifilm MX-1200 Digital Camera: Add \$289

FAMILY CHAMPION

PRESARIO 5000T-733

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QuickAccess Code: 53X9X5-62259

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2X AGP with 64-bit Hardware Accelerated 3D Graphics
56K ITU V.90 Modem³
ESS Allegro Integrated PCI Audio
JBL Platinum Speakers with Digital Audio Port
Compaq CV535 15" Monitor (13.8" VIA)
Personalize by choosing:
Compaq CV735 17" Monitor (16.0" VIA): Add \$70
APC Back-UPS Pro Office 280: Add \$89

WEB SURFER

PRESARIO 5000T-667

\$899[†]

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QuickAccess Code: 53X9X5-62257

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40X Max CO-ROM Drive²
2X AGP with 64-bit Hardware Accelerated 3D Graphics
56K ITU V.90 Modem³
ESS Allegro Integrated PCI Audio
JBL Platinum Speakers with Digital Audio Port
Compaq CV535 15" Monitor (13.8" VIA)
Personalize by choosing:
20.0 GB UltraDMA Hard Drive¹: Add \$60
Compaq CV735 17" Monitor (16.0" VIA): Add \$70

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CD-RW Drive²

Trident CyberBlade Hardware Accelerated 3D Graphics

56K ITU V.90 PCI Modem³

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WEB SURFER

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5.0 GB UltraDMA Hard Drive¹

24X Max CD-RDM Drive²

Trident CyberBlade Hardware Accelerated 3D Graphics

56K ITU V.90 PCI Modem³

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128 KB Integrated "On-chip" Cache

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PRIVACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

We're losing it, in ways we never expected. In this *Y-Life* special report, we'll tell you who's watching you, how they do it, what they know

HOT LITTLE NUMBERS

A pimply 14-year-old is hacking his way into a server and stealing hundreds of MasterCard numbers (including yours) from the database of an e-commerce company.

EVERY CLICK YOU TAKE

Network-based activity-monitoring software such as WinWhatWhere is running invisibly on your PC, keeping a record of the Web sites you visit, the e-mail you send—in fact, every single keystroke you make.

COOKIE MONSTERS

DoubleClick, the company everyone loves to hate, plants cookies on your PC to monitor the sites you visit, the ads you respond to, and the purchases you make.

GOLD MINE

You registered at an MP3 site during your lunch break, providing personal details that include your address, age, and salary. This information is in turn sold to marketing firms that want to know everything about you.

THEY LIKE TO WATCH

Recognition software matches everyone who passes with a database of wanted criminals. But the cameras can also peer into windows or zoom in on the confidential papers you're reading.



NAUGHTY WORDS

Echelon is monitoring calls, faxes, and e-mail for words such as *explosives*, *narcotics*, and *Clinton*. What happens when these words are detected? Whatever you do, don't refer to the president as "da bomb."

DEAD COMPANIES HAVE NO RULES

A company goes under, then changes its name; the "new" company sells data the old one promised to keep private. Legal? Probably not. But it happens.

EVERYTHING'S PERSONAL

Just applied for a new job? An HR office can pull up all kinds of personal information from the Net—from the amount of your mortgage to your marital history to outstanding lawsuits and financial problems.

WOW, YOU BUY LOTS OF CONDOMS!

You use your super-market club card to get a discount. The store gets something too: a personalized and detailed list of your purchases to add to its database.

SPEAK NO EVIL

Three years ago you posted rants on Usenet about how you hated your incompetent boss. Today your new boss has decided to skim Usenet. Your old posts are still online. Uh-oh.

ILLUSTRATION: MARK ROSENTHAL

by Robert Scheer

NOWHERE TO HIDE

**At no time in history have people been so closely monitored.
And we're all cooperating, whether we know it or not**

Imagine the smarmy guy who works in your office or goes to your school, coming up to you and boasting that he has a precise list of the books, videos, and articles of clothing you bought last month online—or offline, for that matter—including the trip to Victoria's Secret. Imagine a stalker or other nut knowing your street address and telephone number, the restaurants you frequent, and your vacation plans. Imagine a defrauder knowing your Social Security number, bankcard numbers, mother's maiden name, date and place of birth, and five favorite passwords.

What else is new, you ask?

Try this: What is utterly new is that anyone willing to spend a few bucks and a little time on the Internet can find out more about what you read, think, and earn than Joseph Stalin or Adolf Hitler, with their fearsome secret police, could ever have learned about the inhabitants of their totalitarian states. The information age has brought with it a revolution in surveillance that makes Gestapo intelligence-gathering seem

puny and inefficient in comparison. In those totalitarian societies, you could, if you were lucky, hide, blend in, pursue a life that remained more or less private.

No more. In this brave new world, every transaction you make adds that much more information to the universal data bank known as the Internet. And now it isn't just the government, acting like Big Brother, that is watching you; in fact, Big Brother often has to hire wizards from the private sector to help him out. The Internet was once ballyhooed as the ultimate extension of unregulated freedom, one in which people could explore their own heavens and hells online, unobserved. The reality is that your privacy rights don't exist. Indeed, online, you don't exist; your profile does, and it will be sorted and packaged and sold. The right to personal privacy, arguably the most cherished of human freedoms, is fast becoming a distant memory. Oracles of the New Economy tell us more good than bad will come from it. "You already have zero privacy—get over it," announces Scott McNealy of Sun Microsystems, a company that coincidentally was developing software that, according to *The New York Times*, makes hash of your privacy. McNealy and others almost make it sound acceptable, a price worth paying for the wonders of targeted marketing.

Take the recent issue of the cookies planted on the hard drives of visitors to the Web site of the White House drug enforcement office. They're only one of many kinds of Web bugs—invisible to the naked eye, embedded beneath the text and graphics of sites you visit. They sit quietly in your computer, taking notes far more efficiently than any olive-in-the-martini device Ian Fleming could dream up. On the White House drug site, the note-taking was accomplished by DoubleClick, a company that primarily gathers data for private businesses and that has already assembled profiles of the habits, tastes, and vital statistics of 100 million Americans. So we can assume that the sort of information government agencies have obtained about us is now available to any entity that can pay the fees of a company such as DoubleClick.

But just because it has become common doesn't make it less troubling. The point of Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* was that the public would come to accept totalitarian intrusion as a part of the normal fabric of life, as something that was actually good for them. We are fast approaching the point where we're inured to the cameras that record us when we enter stores, to the telephone company that asks for reams of personal information before connecting our service, to the hospital social worker who needs to know more about your personal habits than you had thought about yourself. All that data, collected from the most disparate sources, is then recycled into recognizable clumps of information, slices of you, to be devoured by others.

It's true that snooping has been with us from the earliest gossip grapevines linking our grass huts. And we've endured modern forms of surveillance, such as wiretaps and bugs. But those

methods tended to be obvious—picture a couple of bored cops, sitting over their coffee, listening on their earphones, transcribing tapes, filing folders. It was labor-intensive and tedious. But what we have today is different by several leaps and bounds. Old spying had to be selective, targeted. New spying is like a high-powered vacuum cleaner, one that scoops up every bit of information it comes across, even the extraneous or incomprehensible stuff. That's what Echelon (see "Global Eavesdroppers," page 103) and the FBI's Carnivore—and perhaps unreported private systems—can do: Grab everything, because the cost is so low. Carnivore simply places a black box with your ISP and snarfs up all e-mail traffic. Supercomputers do the sifting and the sorting. Needles in haystacks become simple to find, simple to compare with other needles.

In the case of the White House site, the feds admitted the cookies they placed on your computer could be used to find leads on people who might be growing marijuana or selling cocaine. We're not talking about border interdiction or street-corner surveillance. We're talking about access to search the homes and offices of potentially all Americans, and the ability to combine that data with other data collected from banks, department stores, motor vehicle departments, and credit bureaus—just about anywhere a person might have signed for or bought something. Who would have thought that simply going online, or going to a supermarket, could result in a detailed catalog of your habits, which could then be cross-referenced with information from your credit card provider, your

health insurer, and your stockbroker, then sold to a third party? All without your explicit permission.

Mark *explicit*, because that's an important loophole for the snoopers. They claim that you granted permission for your information to be sold when you failed to check *No* on some form you clicked on and filled out. You had the chance to "opt-out" of data sharing, but if you didn't exercise the option—and many people are unaware that it exists or don't know its significance—your data is fair game. From then on, it gets sold, resold, and distributed to the e-commerce corners of the earth.

The alternative used by some sites, an opt-in, means that you explicitly give a site permission to use your personal data. It means that companies and government agencies would be forbidden to use or share your data unless they had your written consent. Opt-in provides consumers with a first line of defense; opt-out is beloved by companies that want to grab your data.

To understand the importance of the distinction between opt-in and opt-out, consider the passage last year of one of the most important pieces of federal legislation concerning privacy in the modern era. While philosophical arguments on how to combat threats to privacy raged in Internet forums, Congress passed the Financial Services Modernization Act. This bill, approved by a wide bipartisan margin in Congress and signed into law by Pres-

Anyone willing to spend a few bucks and a little time on the Internet can find out more about what you read, think, and earn than Joseph Stalin or Adolf Hitler could ever have learned about the inhabitants of their totalitarian states

ident Clinton, reversed a 65-year-old prohibition on banks, insurance companies, and stockbrokers affiliating their businesses. Suddenly, with this legislation, greased with \$300 million in lobbyist dollars (making it the most heavily lobbied bill in U.S. history), those industries were allowed to merge their activities. But the real beauty of it was this: Their customer databases, which had been previously kept separate by law, were now allowed to be merged, just as the businesses themselves were. That meant it became one big happy bank, insurance, and stockbroker family. Banks could look at your health records over at your insurance company. Your stockbroker could reveal the details of your retirement plan to a bank where you were seeking a loan.

As the bill was debated, financial institutions claimed that these mergers would allow them to offer enhanced, "one-stop" services. Privacy advocates argued that these new firms should at least get the customers' explicit permission before information was shared (opt-in). In the end, the bill required only an opt-out. In the course of the debate, the financial groups made it clear that mining data was a large part of the prize they were after. Their lobbyists insisted that they would rather the bill be defeated if it had the opt-in provision.

What's the recourse, now that the law supports these companies' rights to snatch your personal information? It will probably start when enough of these same lobbyists, as private citizens, are the ones to scream loudest when they or their families become the target of the snoopers. That's the great hope here—that enough of us will be victimized by privacy snatchers that, in time, voters will demand action. Yes, Net libertarians, there is a role for government in protecting privacy—from its own excesses as well as those of the commercial sector.

That role has been clearly defined, but rarely acted on, by the Federal Trade Commission, which is supposed to be the main defender of consumer interests. The FTC has proposed a four-point program for privacy protection: notice, choice, access, and security. The idea is that you have the rights 1) to be notified that your information is being shared; 2) to choose if you want that to happen; 3) to have access to the information to ensure its accuracy; 4) to have the security of knowing it won't fall into the wrong hands.

However correct that program might sound, the FTC has no effective power to enforce it. In the absence of regulatory authority, the agency has been forced to negotiate with the snooping and marketing industry on what are, in effect, voluntary standards. The result is a recent agreement that was spun as a great advance in privacy protection but is nothing of the kind. The agreement, concluded between the FTC and a trade association, the Network Advertising Initiative, represents about 90 percent of Internet advertisers, which clearly view the initiative as a way to head off tough privacy protection legislation pending in Congress. Although the initiative contains useful items, such as a contractually binding commitment to allow individuals to correct information a company may be distributing about them, it isn't

binding on businesses that refuse to subscribe to it. It also doesn't give consumers the right to control the use of their personal data, as outlined in the FTC's own program. The most glaring omission is that it doesn't require explicit consumer permission—the opt-in choice that is crucial to personal privacy. It assumes that if *opt-out* hasn't been checked, personal data can be used for profit in ways the customer might never have imagined.

The initiative essentially relies on regulation of consumer privacy rights by an industry that profits from violating those very rights. It's a poor substitute for legislation guaranteeing consumers that personal information supplied by them in one context won't be used without their permission in another.

When it comes to privacy, Americans are the most unprotected citizens in the modern world. (We can include China in that assessment.) Citizens in high-tech, democratic states with high Web use are *more* vulnerable. In societies where we don't expect to be spied on, we let down our guard; and where the methodology is as efficient as ours, the protections are lowest. Elsewhere in the West, by contrast, the European Union, Canada, and Australia have mandatory privacy protections in place that offer extensive consumer protection. This has been accomplished without inhibiting the flow of trade or the effectiveness of law enforcement. Privacy protection gives consumers control to make certain that information about them is used only when it is accurate and in a context they've approved.

Privacy from the prying eyes of a king or Puritan demagogues is what the American Revolution was largely fought for. Your thoughts, plans, and aspirations ought to be no one else's business, unless empowered by you. For an outside entity to take a snapshot of that private self or, worse, to codify and exploit that version of you, represents a profound threat to your freedom.

The only remaining issue is whether there is still time to do something about it. The good news is that a substantial bipartisan gathering of voices has been heard. When you can get Phyllis Schlafly and William Safire to agree with Ralph Nader and civil liberties groups, you may have a winning coalition. The place to start is with the privacy bill, advanced jointly by Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., and Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., to establish the opt-in principle in all data transactions. That would be an important first step in ensuring your control over your most intimate and personal story before it is bandied about for all the world to see on the Internet.

It's not too much to ask that any company that wants information about you be required to tell you ahead of time that you have the right *not* to have it shared with any other company, no matter how much it pays. After all, it's you they're selling.

ROBERT SCHEER, a columnist for the Los Angeles Times and an editor of the Online Journalism Review, is director of the Privacy Project at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School.

When it comes to privacy, Americans are the most unprotected citizens in the world. In societies where we don't expect to be spied on, we let down our guard. And where methodologies are most efficient, protections are lowest

Global Eavesdroppers

Yes, Virginia, there actually *is* an international conspiracy to spy on you

Title: They Hear Everything You Say

Plot: A global surveillance network, run by the infamous National Security Agency and allied intelligence bureaus, listens to every electronic communication in the world. No one and nothing—from cell phone calls to satellite transmissions to baby monitors—lies outside the range of its giant ear. Privacy is dead.

It sounds too corny to be true, but Echelon isn't the product of a B-movie script factory. It's very real, and it has been violating the privacy of Americans and foreign nationals alike for close to 50 years.

"If you're on the phone with someone in another country, assume that three people are listening to the call—you, your friend, and the National Security Agency," says John Pike, an intelligence analyst at the Federation of American Scientists. Echelon has come under increasing heat in the past few years, as U.S. privacy advocates, Congress, and European governments discover the extent to which the Echelon project retrieves and records communications from both private citizens and government agencies around the world. A committee

of the European Parliament is investigating the giant global wiretap, and a French prosecutor has accused the NSA of conducting corporate espionage at a multibillion-dollar expense to French companies.

Echelon intercepts messages—billions per hour, according to one estimate—from the Net, undersea cables, radio transmissions, and bugged embassies, with the majority of data collected through eight or nine radar stations, located from Sugar Grove, West Virginia, to Waihopai, New Zealand. After signals intelligence is gathered, it's run through massive computers that scan messages to see if words such as *bomb* and *Congress* appear in proximity to each other. Earmarked messages are analyzed and redistributed to the member country's security agencies. This extensive surveillance could, for example, lead to the capture of a fugitive terrorist. Or it could be an egregious, illicit violation of your privacy.

Authoritative information on Echelon is sparse (government officials don't call the NSA the No Such Agency for nothing), but according to a study commissioned by the European Parliament, Echelon had its roots in a 1947 agreement between the U.S. and Britain. The countries agreed to divide the world into segments and share intelligence information gathered from their respective zones. Canada, Australia, and New Zealand joined the pact in the mid-1980s.

At home, the NSA maintains such a low profile that few Americans had ever heard of the agency prior to 1975. It gained atten-

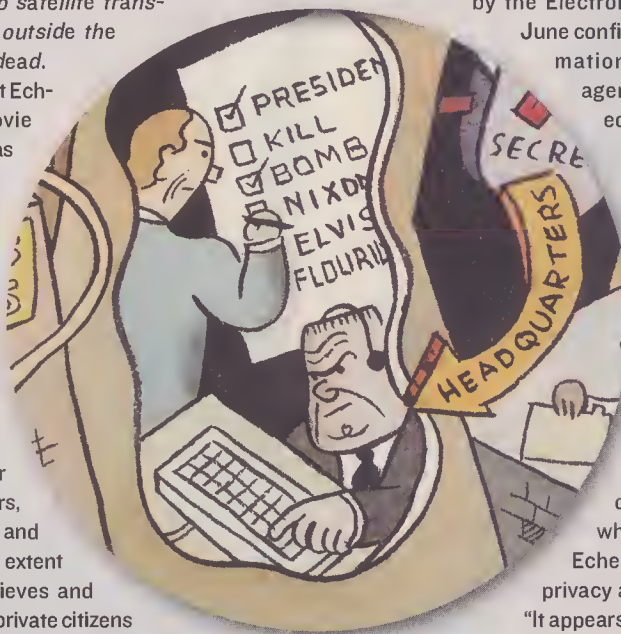
tion during the Watergate hearings, when the Senate discovered that it had been illegally gathering the communications of thousands of civil rights and antiwar activists, including Jane Fonda and Benjamin Spock. Two confidential NSA memos obtained by the Electronic Privacy Information Center in June confirm that the NSA uses massive information-gathering techniques, but the agency has yet to officially acknowledge Echelon's existence.

Of course, covert intelligence gathering is hardly a new concept, and it has unquestionable benefits: Without it, young Americans might be pledging the swastika or hammer and sickle instead of the Stars and Stripes. But intelligence activities have generally toed a fine line in the U.S. By constitutional design, American citizens should be able to enjoy a degree of privacy unheard of in other nations. That is exactly why the pervasiveness and scope of Echelon have so drawn the ire of U.S. privacy advocates.

"It appears to me that Echelon is doing far more than the law allows. Such a large volume of communications is being intercepted, and because it's all classified, we really have no idea whether or not they're targeting individuals," says Barry Steinhardt, associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union. "We're concerned about two things: If they're using Echelon to conduct what amounts to political intelligence; and if they're using it to engage in domestic law enforcement, which they're not supposed to be doing."

There is additional evidence that Echelon has been abused in the past. As Mike Frost, a former Canadian intelligence operative, revealed to *60 Minutes*, Echelon monitors not just cell phone chatter but even ATM transactions. Frost says member countries circumvent laws such as the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act by spying on *one another's* citizens.

Pike notes the ambiguity involved in monitoring communications with foreigners. "Constitutional protections apply only to citizens. The problem arises when a foreigner is talking to an American." Pike cautions that the current controversy might be overblown. "Listen, anything that *can* be abused *will* be abused. It's in the nature of a big organization, and the NSA is a very big organization. But I think it's probably the exception rather than the rule." Yet Pike demurs when asked if he thinks citizens have anything to worry about: "I can't say I find even the wilder assertions totally implausible."





by Jeff Howe

BIG BOSS IS WATCHING

**If your employer opened your mail or tapped your phone, you'd holler.
But online, that's exactly what's happening**

By all accounts, it was a bloodbath. On July 7, the Midland, Michigan-based division of Dow Chemical closed down its front office amid meetings between hundreds of its employees and their supervisors, as well as personnel staff and Dow's attorneys. In the coming weeks, 50 employees were terminated, and 200 were disciplined—some by suspension without pay. The charges? Sending allegedly unsavory messages via the company computers. Some employees represented by the United Steelworkers of America were asked to sign "last-chance agreements," in which they entered a 12-month probationary period and waived their right to union representation in the event of termination. All this, due to fear of e-mail.

One USWA member, Brian Roper, would not sign. It cost him his job. "I'm not going to sign a letter of guilt," he says. Rather than admit to distributing pornography, a charge he vehemently denies, Roper now drives 70 miles each way to break rocks for \$15 an hour.

In the previous months, word had passed over desks and assembly lines that Dow was investigating use of the company e-mail system for sending pornographic images. In fact, the company scoured every nook and cranny of its Midland, Michigan-based servers, raking through the e-mails and Web histories of almost 7,000 employees. Some people were concerned. Others, such as Roper, weren't: "I didn't care, because I hadn't done anything wrong."

The company took another view, accusing him of using

his computer at work to send a pornographic e-mail. His defense was simple: "I still don't know how to use e-mail." Roper says he sent only seven e-mails in his entire career at Dow, and two were to sign up for the company's bow-hunting club. The only other person who might have used his computer to send the offensive e-mail, Roper told Dow investigators, was an engineer who had helped him send a few of the innocuous ones. To back up his claim, he offered, twice, to take a polygraph.

They turned down his offers. "It was a kangaroo court," says Roper. Dow told him he could return to his job after a two-week suspension, as long as he signed the last-chance agreement. "Only two people have ever survived last-chance agreements at Dow," Roper says. But that wasn't why he wouldn't sign. "It's an admission of guilt," he says. Barely controlling his voice, he adds, "I am not a pornographer."

Dow defends its actions as a necessary step in ensuring an equitable, nonhostile work environment, and it is hardly the only company taking drastic measures to this end, just the most recent. In 1995, e-mails containing jokes such as "25 reasons beer is better than women" were used as evidence in a sexual harassment claim against Chevron Corp. The company settled for \$2.2 million, and corporate America took notice. Justifiably concerned about liability, employers are increasingly viewing the Internet as a Pandora's box, capable of sapping employee productivity, allowing easy dissemination of trade secrets, and fostering an atmosphere in which employees who are

members of protected groups, including women and minorities, are offended, intimidated, or worse.

As a result, the number of American companies that monitor their employees' communications has increased exponentially. According to an American Management Association study released in April, 73.5 percent of U.S. firms now conduct some form of employee surveillance, twice the number in 1997. And Dow isn't the only company handing out pink slips. Last year, Xerox fired 40 employees for inappropriate Internet use, and the New York Times Co. axed 23 employees—22 in a Virginia office and one in New York—for sending "offensive" e-mail using the company's system. As the AMA report reveals, one in four companies has fired employees for misuse or personal use of office telecommunications tools.

"People treat their e-mails as if they were a private letter, sealed in an envelope and protected by law," says Lewis Maltby, director of the National Workrights Institute. "And maybe they should be, but the fact is they're not. They're a postcard, and anyone can read the contents." You never know who might have an ear bent to catch that ill-considered, unseemly remark.

But you should know. In all likelihood, that bent ear belongs to your boss, who could be recording your phone conversations, reading your e-mail, checking to see what Web sites you visit, or even watching your movements through hidden video cameras. In just a short time, all this has become accepted practice in corporate America.

"We monitor on a regular basis and reserve the right to request any and all electronic records, which would include Web sites and e-mails," says Eric Semel, director of employee relations at a major publishing house. And what goes on at Semel's workplace goes on at companies around the country. Some companies even use keystroke-logging software that records every word typed, including those that are subsequently deleted. "Nobody should expect any privacy in the workplace today," says Maltby. "Everything you say or do can easily be monitored."

Seem like a gross invasion of your privacy? Get used to it: If you're on company time or using company equipment, you essentially don't have a right to privacy. This creates an especially dire circumstance, Maltby says, as work rapidly evolves under the influence of the information revolution. In addition, he says, "the boundary between work and home is dissolving. As more employees begin working from home, a sphere of privacy in the workplace becomes far more essential."

Even the watchers aren't always happy with the watching. For much of the past year, Mark Stewart has had his eyes on the roughly 2,100 Mohawk Industries employees who access the Internet. Mohawk, a major producer of carpeting, has fired four people for Internet abuse since installing software to monitor its employees' Web habits. "We do get a ton of people going to porn sites," he says. He thinks watching the workers is a good idea, but, he says, "I don't want to be the one to know these people's secrets." In the future a new privacy policy will require employees to acknowledge a

statement of the company's policy on Internet use. Reports on Web activity will be available to their respective managers.

As the most ardent of privacy advocates will admit, employers usually have legitimate reasons for monitoring their employees. Concerns about productivity, quality control, loss of trade secrets, and increasingly, exposure to claims of harassment combine to argue for a limited, respectful policy of surveillance. And many if not most companies pursue these policies in an ethical fashion, informing their employees which communications will be monitored and to what extent.

But the explosion of electronic communication, Maltby says, has radically increased the amount of information employers now can access, and as a result, its potential for abuse. One woman called the NWI after her boss congratulated her on her pregnancy. This came as some surprise, because she hadn't told anyone at work that she was expecting. But because her company

monitored Web page requests, her boss knew that she had visited sites for expectant mothers. Even in the case of such an invasive misuse of monitoring, an employee's opportunities for legal remedy are extremely limited.

Alex Childers (not his real name) offers first-hand testimony of this fact. When he was fired from Citizens Utilities Company, a major utility provider, Childers hadn't even finished decorating his house. His children, one of whom is developmentally disabled, were still adjusting to a recent move to a tony area near Scottsdale, Arizona. "The irony is that we bought a house in a gated community so that we'd have more privacy," he says.

Childers was fired for postings he had made on a Yahoo! message board, at home, on his own time. The postings were critical of the company, specifically his boss. After being served with a subpoena, Yahoo! turned over Childers's identity. Although no legal action was taken against him, Childers was fired. He was given 10 minutes to remove his belongings from the firm in which he'd worked as a CPA for six years.

Childers was indignant about his termination. After all, his company fired him for things he had written from his own computer in his own home, on a message board that had assured him of his privacy. But when he searched for legal representation, lawyers told him he didn't have a chance: "One attorney told me, 'Arizona is a right-to-work state. They can fire you for having disloyal thoughts.'" Since his comments on the message board weren't political, he couldn't claim his right to free speech had been violated. However, a case very similar to the one Childers hoped to bring was on the docket in California this summer. Like Childers, the plaintiff, "Aquacool_2000," worked at a publicly traded company and had sounded off on Yahoo!'s message boards about his employer. Yahoo! released the user's personal information in response to a subpoena, without first informing the user or even reviewing the legitimacy of the legal claim. (The company—which, by the way, does *not* own the magazine you're reading—later changed its policy.) The suit claimed that as a result,

'Nobody should expect any privacy in the workplace today. Everything you do or say can easily be monitored.' Seem like a gross invasion of your privacy? Get used to it. If you're on company time, you don't have a right to privacy

Hide! The Boss!

How to CYA when you're on the job

Worried about getting fired for encouraging impure thoughts about Betty Rubble?

Well, before you start downloading prehistoric porn, heed the voice of expert reason.

"I have three words of advice: Don't be stupid," says Eric Rolfe Greenberg, author of the American Management Association survey that found that nearly 75 percent of all major companies monitor communications that take place via telephone, computer files, the Internet, or e-mail. "Do you order dope delivered to the office? No. Do you call your bookie from the office phone? Of course not."

In other words, common sense will go a long way. Here are some simple steps you can take to ensure your privacy:

■ Think before you send. Don't use the company e-mail system for any correspondence you wouldn't feel comfortable putting in your boss's hands. Instead, sign up with one of the many free e-mail accounts from Hotmail, Excite, or Yahoo!

■ Think before you dial. If you think your phone conversations might be recorded (and even if you don't), keep all but the most justifiable personal calls (doctor's appointments, PTA meetings, bus schedules) off the company lines. Cells, and your old pal, the pay phone, both do the trick.

■ Cache out each day. You probably can't help but use your company's computer for noncompany matters. But you can clear your browser's memory cache at least once a day. It contains a defined number of Web pages that you visited in your last session, a track record of your virtual meandering. In Internet Explorer, go to Tools, select Internet Options, and under the General tab click Delete Files. For Netscape Navigator, go to Edit, select Preferences, and under Category choose Advanced, then Cache. Click Clear Memory Cache and Clear Disk Cache, and start each day with a clean travelogue.

■ If you don't know, ask. If your company's monitoring policy is vague, or lacking altogether, ask the information technology or human resources department what kind of surveillance is taking place. Knowledge is power, and in this case, knowledge is also privacy.

■ Take it home. Eric Semel, director of employee relations for a publishing company, recalls one corporate privacy policy that left nothing to chance: "Don't have anything on your computer screen that you wouldn't want on the front page of the *New York Post*." This may sound extreme, but until the law forces companies to alter their policies, your safest route to workplace privacy is to realize that, in Semel's words, "you don't have any."



Aquacool_2000 lost his job and a "large block of stock" that was scheduled to be vested a few weeks after his termination. Aquacool_2000's lawyer, Megan Gray, says companies often file subpoenas in frivolous suits merely to identify who's bad-mouthing them on the investor boards. In August the two parties settled out of court, and Aquacool_2000's lawsuit was dismissed. Under the terms of the settlement, neither side can discuss the case, but if Aquacool_2000 received a financial settlement from Yahoo!, that suggests that Childers might also have a chance at legal satisfaction.

Not that he's terribly interested in that anymore. After his abrupt dismissal, Childers quickly found a job "for a much better company." But now, even if he were dissatisfied with his job, he says, "I wouldn't go online to complain."

The former Dow employees have less basis for a suit than Childers. The union local says it will file grievances on behalf of the 29 union members who were fired, but neither they nor the 21 nonunion employees terminated in July have much to hope for from a court of law.

"In America, the implicit case law is that when employees take a job they are obligated to work for the benefit of their employer. To the extent that someone isn't doing that, there are grounds for termination," says Mark Floyd, a Cleveland-based attorney who defends companies against wrongful termination suits.

The Dow employees have another reason not to take their case to court: Although almost all the former and current employees interviewed for this article felt that the e-mail jokes that cost them their jobs were pretty tame—even for the workplace—there remains the stigma of being publicly associated with what the company labeled pornography.

"They were chickenshit jokes," says Randy Marovich, a Dow employee fired in the wake of the e-mail investigation. He lists examples, such as animated image of President Clinton singing about Monica Lewinsky, and crass parodies of MasterCard's "Priceless" commercials. Another employee was targeted for possessing a cartoon silhouette of *The Flintstones'* Fred, Barney, and Wilma getting friendly in the moonlight.

One of the criteria Dow used to determine the offensiveness of material was whether it was available in the Midland area. In the days after the firings, Midland, by all accounts a socially conservative town, erupted with innuendo and suspicion. "I had wives calling me and asking if their husbands were pornographers," laments Kent Holsing, the vice president of the union local. "It got pretty ugly. No one wants that kind of reputation." Yet Marovich maintains that the material "certainly wasn't anything you couldn't find at the corner drugstore."

In its potential to provide anonymity, the Web can encourage a level of disclosure—of total honesty—that's unattainable in everyday life. The Internet allows us to express and reveal ourselves to a degree that not even our lovers, families, and friends will ever witness. Much less our bosses.

It was perhaps this false sense of security that flourished in the Norfolk, Virginia, office of the New York Times Co. More than 200 employees worked at that office, an administrative outpost of the nation's premier daily newspaper. As in thousands of offices around the world, many coworkers had taken to exchanging humorous e-mails. These might take the form of the ubiquitous "Top 10 Reasons to...", gripes about a supervisor, or, less frequently, "inappropriate" images. Forwards included jokes poking fun at women, men, and blondes. Employees later echoed Childers, char-

168 >>

THE INVISIBLE MAN

by Anonymous

Online, *everyone* knows you're a dog. New anonymity software can help in the privacy battle

The chances are getting better every day that an ill-advised remark you made online could come back to haunt you.

You don't know me, and you never will. I don't mean that literally, of course, but when I log on to the Internet, I'm as close to unknowable as is possible in these interconnected times. Online, I slip my skin, disappear into invisibility. It's easy and nearly automatic, thanks to a program I use that buries my browser and scrambles my e-mail. It's a program that renders me invisible.

It's not that I *need* to do this. I'm not a spy or a secret agent. Most of my activities online are fairly banal. I read. I troll for jokes. If I see something I like, I click and buy. But every once in a while I'll post something to a newsgroup or purchase something that I'd rather not be traced back to me. If the boss deserves a lashing on **VAULT.COM**, that virtual watercooler, I'd just as soon go incognito when I wield the whip. If I'm experimenting with a trial subscription or a new sex toy, I don't want the company hounding me if I decide to cancel, or selling my name to people I prefer not to do business with. I could tell you

more—but then you'd know who I am.

My friends say I'm a little extreme. But I'm in the very best company. In *The Road Ahead*, Bill Gates predicts that in the future we'll all live a fully "documented life," in which databases record our every transaction, whether trivial or profound. It's not hard to see how. We're transposing more and more of ourselves to the Internet at the very moment that the capacity to store data of every flavor is undergoing blinding growth.

Think I'm paranoid? In the past two years, there have been at least 70 lawsuits filed against message-board posters (see "Big Boss Is Watching," page 105). Most defendants were criticizing corporations under the assumption that they could do so behind a veil of privacy. Last year, the defense contractor Raytheon successfully sued 21 posters for disclosing information about the company.

To avoid litigation, the critics could have relied on one of the many companies that help average computer users resist documentation and protect their privacy. The companies are thriving by catering to the over 80 percent of Net users who say they worry about online privacy. And in the process of meeting this demand, they're doing nothing

Play that funky
injection-molded polycarbonate,
aluminum and acrylic contained data
white boy.



It's amazing - when you find out how stuff works, you see the world in a whole new way. That's why Marshall Brain created **HowStuffWorks.com** - to provide clear and fascinating explanations on everything from a CD to Global Positioning Systems. So log on and change the way you look at things. It feels good to know.

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HowStuffWorks

ing less than changing the nature of cyberspace. Neither totally revealing nor completely anonymous, the option they're creating has a new name: pseudonymous.

Pseudonymity is actually an old idea on the Internet. Long before graphics-enabled browsers, people typed in fictional handles in multiuser domains, or MUDs. That tradition survives today in the form of screen names, those often absurd stand-ins for a real identity. But today, going by a made-up name is no guarantee of anonymity. If pseudonymity becomes the norm, we'll all be floating around cyberspace under assumed names. You won't have just one online identity—you'll have several, each a sliver of your real self.

While the chances that an ill-advised remark could come back to haunt you may be low right now, they're getting better every day. No law prevents bulletin boards from turning over so-called tracer routes that can be used to determine the computer from which a message came. And although many larger ISPs and message boards will reveal a user's identity only under warrant or court order, most smaller companies will do so out of a sense of good cybercitizenship, according to Jeff Bedser, managing director of **ICG: INTERNET CRIMES GROUP INC.**, which specializes in uncovering anonymous posters. "They're generally happy to cooperate," says Bedser. So it's no wonder that privacy advocates who chart the risks of invasive practices are worried. Andrew Shen, a policy analyst at the Electronic Privacy Information Center, warns, "Most people haven't fully grasped how everything that you see or do on the Internet is recorded and stored somewhere."

Indeed, employers, insurance companies, and others are beginning to troll newsgroups and bulletin boards. Some companies simply monitor message boards simply to know what's on their customers' minds. Others are looking for red flags that put the lie to an inflated résumé, that show evidence of a pre-

existing condition, or that otherwise suggest you're not who you say you are. For companies lacking the staff or motivation for this task, there's an outfit willing to take it on. Online sleuth **EWATCH**, a service of PR Newswire, boasts that for a fee of \$5,000, it can find the actual identity behind a screen name. Who's willing to pay? So far, claims eWatch, more than 800 corporate clients.

One satisfied customer is U.S. West. Kristina Jonell, the company's Internet manager, provided eWatch with a glowing testimonial: "We decided to try eWatch because...we didn't have a way to know what customers were saying and in which discussion groups they were talking about US West. So this is a great way for us to do that tracking and to allow us to participate in those discussions."

This kind of tracking is especially worrisome when you consider that many bulletin boards don't allow you to erase postings. Except in rare cases, the major newsgroups and bulletin boards preserve every remark—obscene or mundane—on their servers for as long as they are in business, and sometimes beyond. **DEJA.COM** now has Usenet newsgroups that can be searched by keyword as far back as 1995. On AOL, each community decides for itself how long to

archive postings, and some save every word for a period of time.

If you simply want to cover your tracks online and make it impossible for eWatch to watch, look no further than the several companies offering free anonymizers. An anonymizer is a buffer—an extra server that stands between your browser and its final destination. **ANONYMIZER.COM** offers a no-fee service that hits you with banner ads in exchange for hiding your computer's location (a faster version without the ads costs \$50 a year). **IDZAP.COM** offers a similar service, and others will sprout as privacy concerns grow.

But there's a serious downside to the sort of anonymity those programs offer. For one thing, you can't stay part of an online community for long without maintaining a steady identity that's somehow verifiable. It's not that fellow posters are likely to check up on you. But in the course of a community dialogue you're more likely to reveal things about yourself that a trained sleuth could use to determine your actual identity.

The Canadian company Zero-Knowledge Systems offers a software package for Windows at its site **ZERO-KNOWLEDGE** that provides privacy protection while allowing you to nourish online communities. Called Freedom, it is the Rolls-Royce of privacy software. Freedom wraps the data that leaves your computer in encrypted envelopes, so that nobody—not even the government—can discover your identity or read your e-mail. Likewise, your boss can't peek into Freedom communications unless he's standing over your shoulder as you type. The program's most innovative feature is its five pseudonymous identities, or "nyms." Each nym comes with a mailbox address; mail to the nym address can be accessed from your ordinary e-mail account. Activate a nym before browsing and even cookies will be contained in that nym's "cookie jar." Say you want to research cancer: Using one nym, you go to a site about the disease; using another, you visit a health insurance site. With

Freedom, neither site can learn about your visit to the other.

Freedom may well be a radical measure for most people. Then again, you could be grateful down the road. Just ask Jim Rutt. The CEO of domain-name company Network Solutions, Rutt used to be an avid poster to hip online community **THE WELL**. For 10 years, Rutt wrote daily missives to the Well under the obvious screen name jimrutt. In the comfort of the community, jimrutt said things that Jim Rutt never would. When Rutt joined Network Solutions he feared that the media would exhume his late-night banter. So he went back and deleted 200 pages, one by one, erasing his past. "It was a controversial move at the time, and it got a lot of other people thinking about whether they should go back and erase their old postings," recalls one Well conference host.

Rutt was lucky—and prudent. He covered his tracks. You may not need to go that far, but it's reassuring to know the option exists. Whatever you do, don't worry about me. I'm already gone.

ANONYMOUS is a New York City-based writer who may or may not contribute to Brill's Content, Salon, and The Village Voice.

If I'm experimenting with a trial subscription or new sex toy, I don't want the company hounding me if I decide to cancel, or selling my name to people I prefer not to do business with. I could tell you more—but then you'd know who I am



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COVER YOUR TRACKS

by Charles C. Mann

**Hacked and attacked, one man fights back
and takes a stand against an army of invaders**

Not long ago, cable modems made a triumphant arrival in my part of the Northeast. My neighbors and I eagerly signed up for high-speed Internet access. But it also worried me. Unlike my dial-up connection, my cable modem would be constantly connected to the Internet, which is the same thing as saying that everyone else on the Net would be constantly connected to me. As a journalist, I had written articles about companies, universities, and government agencies besieged by online intruders. But did I, as a simple citizen, have reason to worry?

Yes and no. I was initially concerned about pale, asocial crackers breaking into my system and trashing files. I wasn't panicky, because instead of throwing out my old computer I saved it to store my financial information. This old machine, which is never connected to the Internet, is safe from attack. But I had no desire to have people rummaging around my hard drive.

Like everyone else, I loved my new high-speed access. Although I saw no visible sign of crackers trying to take over my computer, after a few weeks my festering anxiety impelled me to buy a firewall: software that screens out unwanted incoming traffic. Because I had heard good things about **NETWORK ICE's** BlackICE Defender (and because it cost less than Symantec's Norton Internet Security), I downloaded BlackIce for \$40. (Fans of William Gibson's *Neuromancer* will recall that ICE stands for Intrusion Countermeasures Electronics.) Wondering if I was being foolishly paranoid, I installed the software and ran it.

Within 30 seconds, it had detected someone probing my machine.

Actually, that was atypically fast. BlackICE usually observes people jiggling the doorknob of my computer just three to five times a day. Still...three to five times a *day*.

Amazed, I asked seven computer professionals about their experience. All but one had similar stories. One man with a dial-up connection had even recorded scattered attempts to break into his machine during the brief periods when it was connected to the Net.

Who was trying to break in? Many of the miscreants are my neighbors—members of my own cable system. In a way, this is unsurprising: My cable provider has its own firewall, which presumably screens out outside attacks; consequently, crackers who operate from within the network have a better shot at breaking into my computer.

My computer is more secure than the vast majority of PCs, or so says **SHIELDS UP!** software developer Steve Gibson's free online test of the vulnerability of your machine. So far as I know, not one of the intruders has succeeded in breaking in. This is partly because BlackICE parries attacks and partly because most of my attackers are incompetent. Many are "script kiddies"—the digital equivalent of monkeys on typewriters. Using software picked up in the kind of place on the Net that only teenagers have the time and energy to find, they sift through hundreds of IP numbers (the "addresses" given to every machine on the Net) for computers that other crackers have already broken into and installed software that allows outsiders to control the machine.

Unfortunately, defending against the script kiddies



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Secure Yourself

Simple things you can do to safeguard your privacy

Surf Secretly.

Start your surfing (or searching) at **SILENTSURF.COM** or **ANONYMIZER.COM** in order to move around the Net anonymously and prevent sites from collecting info about your Net hangouts and habits.

Opt-Out.

Check the box that prevents a company from gathering information about your surfing and buying patterns.

Just Say No.

Doublecross **DOUBLECLICK** by opting-out of their program linking your ad clicks to your interests. Go to [doubleclick.net/company_info/about_doubleclick/privacy/privacy2.htm].

Build a Wall.

Have a DSL or cable connection? Install a basic firewall program, such as Norton Personal Firewall, so that no one will be able to infiltrate your computer using Back Orifice or other hacking programs.

Test Yourself.

Take the **SHIELDS UP!** diagnostic [grc.com], software developer Steve Gibson's free online test of the vulnerability of your machine.

Block Ads.

Go to **JUNKBUSTERS** and get Guidescope, which blocks cookie-dropping banner ads, thereby speeding up your surfing.

Get Smart.

The **ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION** [eff.org] and the **ELECTRONIC PRIVACY INFORMATION CENTER** [epic.org] provide solid privacy information. For kids or Net newcomers, an overview on protecting online rights can be found at **SITE SEEING ON THE NET** [www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/online/sitesee].

Be Paranoid.

Use software such as Tweak UI to clear your tracks automatically every time you log on to Windows. Click Start at the bottom of your screen; select Settings, then Control Panel. Click on the Tweak UI icon, and select the Paranoia tab for a host of options. Don't have Tweak UI on your PC? Try **CNET DOWNLOAD.COM**.



comes at a price. BlackICE—like other commercial firewalls—is easy to install but hard for novices to configure. After I installed it, I decided to hook my family's computers into a small network—an option popular enough that Windows has a specific setup for networking, called Microsoft Family LogOn. Initially, BlackICE made Family LogOn much more difficult, because it interpreted every attempt to move files in and out of my computer as an attack. Each time I opened up a directory in another computer, BlackICE froze my machine. After many reboots, I learned how to configure the firewall, but the troubles dampened my ardor. That's what I call the Security Dilemma: The more secure a machine, the harder it is to use.

Installing a firewall is like putting on a suit of armor. You're protected against random assault, but you don't move very quickly. The trick is to balance defense with mobility. Because I had my family's most important data stored on a machine with no Internet connection, I decided to leave the rest of our network relatively insecure. (For Internet purchases, I use a credit card with a \$400 limit. Credit card companies by law can hold you liable for only the first \$50 in illegal charges, but a low limit stops the perpetrator in his tracks when he goes to buy that \$1,000 stereo system.)

I felt pretty comfortable until I learned about the other kind of undesirable Internet activity—the outgoing, rather than incoming, traffic. An astonishing number of companies use tricks to make computers send out information about their users. The efforts go far beyond the now-notorious misuse of cookies, the tags added invisibly to a special file consulted by the browser.

In their default configurations, RealNetworks's RealDownload, Netscape's Smart Download, and the NetZip Download Demon report to corporate headquarters the identity of every file that is downloaded using them. Some companies, including Quicken and FedEx, place tiny, transparent one-pixel-by-one-pixel images in Web pages and e-mail that can track who is reading them. Scores of software companies use "spyware," which gets downloaded along with their products and which sends back to headquarters information about the user's actions. Even Mattel Interactive, as Simson Garfinkel wrote in **SALON.COM**, used the computers on which children played its Brøderbund CD-ROMs to send out information without informing the kids or their parents.

Game companies seem particularly prone to spyware. When my teenage son downloaded Steve Gibson's free (for now) **OPTOUT** software, which detects and expunges spyware, he found half a dozen spy programs from games he had downloaded. But the use of spyware is rapidly spreading beyond games. In July, an antispyware Web site listed more than 400 suspected corporate users of spyware.

The thought of staying on top of the constantly changing world of Net security is indeed daunting. And there's no question that maintaining control of who's running your computer requires time and effort. But the alternatives are either giving up the Web altogether (a lousy option) or giving up control of your machine. It's comforting to realize that with a little prudence and work, I was able to get a thumbs-up from Shields Up, via the recent message: "All attempts to get any information from your computer have FAILED." Then, soberingly, it added: "This is *very* uncommon for a Windows networking-based PC."

CHARLES C. MANN is the author of @Large: The Strange Case of the World's Biggest Internet Invasion and a correspondent for The Atlantic Monthly.

? Think about it

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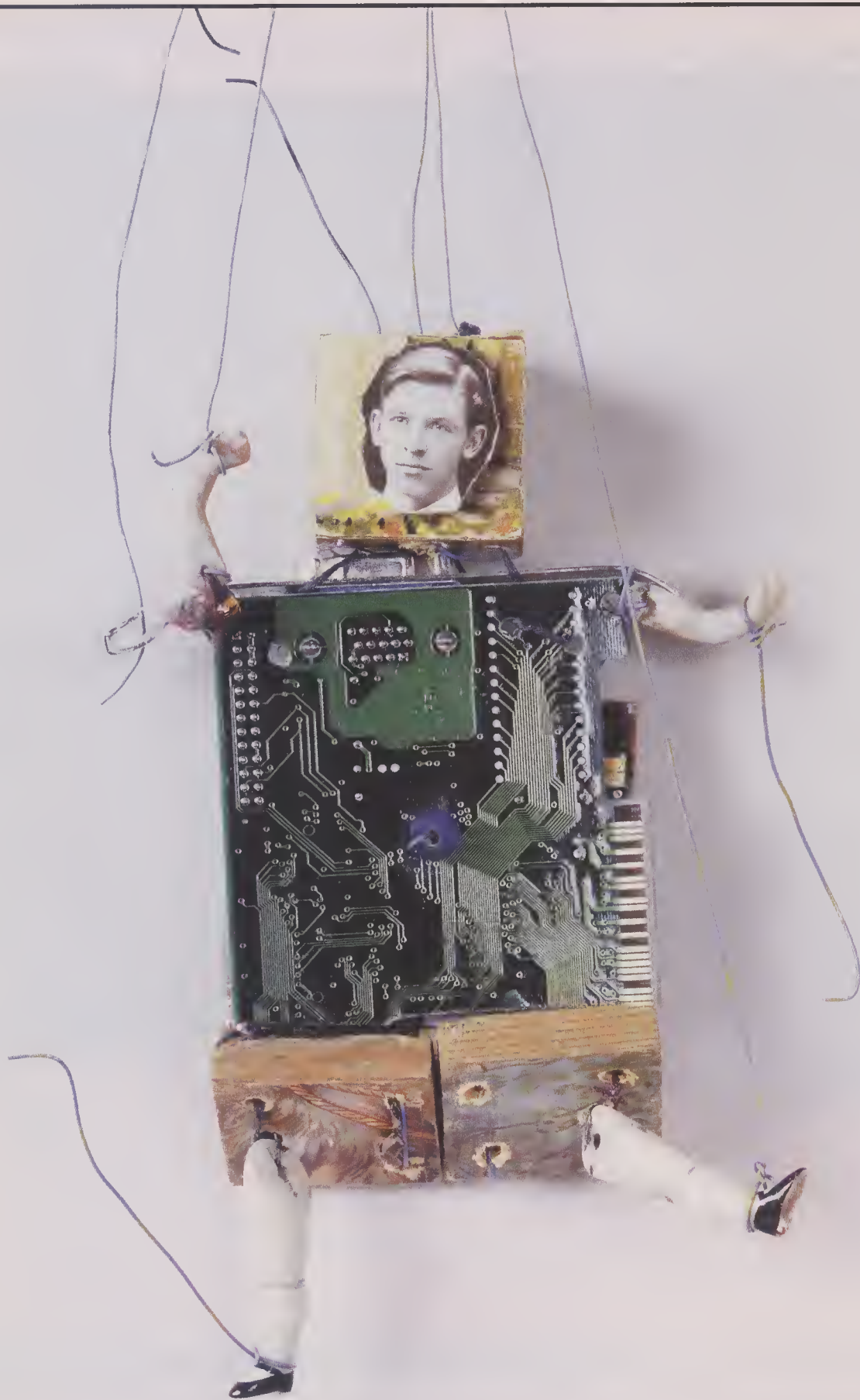
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I wanted to free my ass and let my Web surfing follow. I wanted to cut loose from my PC. I wanted to be like those people in the ads, so smart and hip, surfing the Web from the beach and crosstown cabs. Yes, I wanted to *go wireless*.

So I outfitted myself with two new gadgets that promised to emancipate me from the office: a MOTOROLA Timeport mobile phone from Sprint PCS, and a Palm Vx organizer mated to a new wire-

than the UPC symbol on the cover of this magazine. Smaller than the dial of my watch.

And, not surprisingly, far too small to surf the Net. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

I started with e-mail. Now, why would you want to send e-mail with a mobile phone when you can, you know, make a phone call, just dial a number and talk? I have no idea. Maybe because you can. Sort of.

I imagined dashing off witty missives to friends and

Gadget makers want you to cut the cord, but watch out for the loose wires

less modem from OMNISKY. You've seen the ubiquitous ads for these early entrants in the wireless race, so you know that Sprint PCS bills its service as the "Wireless Web," while OmniSky claims that you can "take the Internet everywhere." Heady stuff indeed!

The Timeport—basically the new, Webified version of the ever-popular StarTAC—costs \$300, with Wireless Web service starting at \$20 per month. It's the size of a deck of cards, which means its screen is very, very small. How small? Smaller

colleagues, such as, "Running late, stuck in a meeting with Bill G." Or, "In the men's room, hold my calls."

But composing a message, even a short one, is not easy. There are eight keys with letters on a mobile phone. There are 26 letters in the alphabet. You do the math. For the record, the first message I sent was "This is just absurd." This was also my last message. It took five minutes to write.

I tapped my way to a screen that said, "Enter a site name or URL." Eagerly I typed in the address of a movie review site to which I contribute, FILMCRITIC.COM.

THE WIRELESS WEB:

PLEASE

HOLD

B Y G O R D O N B A S S

I was promptly greeted with the message "1015: Invalid content type. The site may not be a wireless Web site. Only certain types of sites may be accessed."

It turns out we're talking about very, very certain types. In fact, the phone can access only those sites designed specifically for its tiny mobile screen. I checked with Sprint PCS to see how many sites this includes.

About 30.

This is not a joke.

At last count there were about 4 million Web sites. That means my "Wireless Web" phone can access a whopping 0.0000075 percent of the Web.

Admittedly, the 30 sites are a pretty good selection of popular Web destinations adapted for wireless devices. There's an **AOL** "portal" from which you can check your AOL mail, stocks, sports, and other information; a similar miniportal from **YAHOO!**; an **AMAZON.COM** site (you can shop from your phone—how's that for progress?); **MAPQUEST** for getting driving directions (text directions, of course, not a map).

But it's still just 30 sites.

(In fairness, technically the phone can access 24,000 sites created in Wireless Markup Language, but Sprint PCS says there's "no guarantee" that these will appear correctly on the phone's diminutive screen.)

Pictures? Get real. Streaming audio or video? You're high. There's not even room for a Help button, and I would have tongue-tangoed with Clippit the Annoying Word Help Guy in exchange for a tip or two on how to navigate Motorola's tiny screen.

I guess if I had to track my investments on a minute-to-minute basis, I could use the Timeport; nuggets of information, such as stock quotes, can be clearly displayed on the Timeport's screen. Then again, if I really needed updated stock prices every 90 seconds, I'd have bigger problems than the size of my Web phone.

After a week with the Timeport, I realized there really is such a thing as too small. I'd been an interloper in a Lilliputian technoland. I was ready for something better. And bigger.

OmniSky's version of the wireless Web works like this: Its \$299 wireless modem snaps onto the back of a Palm Vx and connects you to the Web for a flat \$40 per month. I figured this duo might have a shot at success. It has several advantages over the Timeport: First, the Palm has a much larger screen. Second, the Palm's handwriting recognition should make it easier to write e-mail and enter Web site addresses. Finally, and most important, OmniSky promises that its service lets you access almost any site on the Web.

It took two days of jacking around with settings before I could send and receive e-mail. At the lowest point I had to leave my office, go outside, and call OmniSky tech support on a mobile phone because my OmniSky modem didn't get reception inside, which meant we couldn't troubleshoot its problems.

Once I got things working, however, the shortcomings quickly became obvious. OmniSky offers no way to send or receive attachments. Writing anything longer than a few sentences is still a chore. And getting connected is a less-than-certain proposition (think about how often your cell-phone service craps out—same deal with a wireless Net connection). Where was the ease, the convenience? Why was I not standing in the middle of Central Park smiling smugly because I'd joined the new order of communication?

It didn't get a whole lot better when I moved on to surfing. As advertised, you can visit almost any Web site—but the sites won't look anything like they do on your PC. OmniSky does a decent job of jamming big, colorful pages onto a small black-and-white screen. But most of the graphics are stripped out, leaving just text and links. Which means you're missing all the visual cues and landmarks that help you navigate the Web.

As with Motorola's Timeport, OmniSky has several sites designed specifically for its service. These include the usual suspects, from **BARNES & NOBLE.COM** and **EBAY** to **MOVIEFONE** and **CBS MARKETWATCH**. They are much clearer than others, but if you stick to these sites you're severely limited in your surfing. Then there's the waiting; sites often take 30 seconds or more to download.

In Europe, they're a year or so ahead of us in the wireless game. The early word is that, with the exception of instant messaging, Europeans aren't wild about surfing the wireless Web. They've tuned out the hype and are instead focusing

their hopes on faster, third-generation technology that's due in 2002 (in the States, 2004).

Of course, we're still connecting to version 1.0 of the wireless Web. It's easy to forget that just six or seven years ago the Internet was a pretty shaky proposition, the domain of geeky grad students who were quietly (and unwittingly) engineering the overthrow of the status quo. But things improved quickly. Improvements will happen in the wireless arena as connection speeds get faster and devices get smarter.

For now, however, the wireless Web experience remains singularly unimpressive. If someone wanted to sell you a wireless TV but told you it didn't receive many channels, and no color programming was available, and you might have to buy additional parts to make it work, and service was lousy in lots of places, would you believe the wireless TV revolution had begun?

So here's the dirty little secret about the wireless Web: It's wireless, yes. But it sure isn't the Web—not yet, anyway. And those people in the ads are pleased only because they're starving actors who can't pay their phone bills in the first place, much less buy into the great wireless hoax. Wireless is indeed the future. We'll call you when it's here.



WEB TEASE: Palm Vx with OmniSky Wireless Modem; Motorola Timeport



GORDON BASS is a senior editor at Yahoo! Internet Life.



Photographed by Mary Bloom at NSAL.

Seven-year old actress Hallie Eisenberg with League Orphan "Brandy".

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Fall

preview

By Cree
McCree,

with additional
reporting by
Megan Gerrity
and Lisa Ko

LOOK
OUT,
HOLLY-
WOOD.
SOME OF
THIS
SEASON'S
HOTTEST
FARE
IS FRESH
OFF THE
WEB

entertainment

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES. OUR PREVIOUS look at online entertainment content was dominated by old media, with a nod to the mostly perfunctory Web sites attached to upcoming movies and TV shows.

You'll still find some big-screen and tube offerings here, selected because their online components are not just an afterthought. But the floodgates have opened for original Web entertainment, and such well-known artists as Tim Burton and Stan Lee have joined the ranks of thousands of young creators cranking out one-click wonders that are spreading across the Net like spam.

In a free-for-all market more volatile than the Nasdaq, no site

has yet emerged as the Amazon.com of online entertainment, though plenty have tried (see "State of the Mart," page 128). And if you don't have broadband, the streaming video of live-action shorts is more like a trickle (see "Stuck in the Slow Lane?," page 134). Still, there's no shortage of diversions available to anyone with a modem, thanks to a gold mine of accessible animation.

By this time next year, some young snot or old master may have completely transformed the medium as we know it. In fact, we'd bet on it. Meanwhile, log on and enjoy this season's most intriguing artists, shows, and sites. They may not all be ready for prime time, but they do point to the future of entertainment.

Sci-Fi & Horror

7TH PORTAL

www.stanlee.net

WHEN: ONGOING

Marvel legend Stan Lee celebrates the convergence of comic book fans and computer geeks by transforming a group of game testers into superheroes.

THE EXORCIST: A VERSION YOU'VE NEVER SEEN

theexorcist.net

WHEN: ONGOING. FILM PREMIERES SEPTEMBER 22.

The remastered version of the '70s horror flick boasts 12 minutes of previously unseen footage. Summon the demon Pazuzu using the animated Ouija board on the site.

ANITA BOMBA

wildbrain.com

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 22

Ripped from the pages of a French graphic novel, this bodacious bank robber is a futuristic Bonnie sans Clyde.

BAD VLAD

distantcorners.com

WHEN: OCTOBER

Dracula's ancient ancestor draws first blood on the fall lineup for new sci-fi and horror portal Distant Corners. Animated.

PROTECTOR OF THE HOOD (WORKING TITLE)

www.stanlee.net

WHEN: FALL

Voluptuous Mary J. Blige transforms from flesh-baring R&B diva into flesh-baring superhero via Stan Lee Media's new animated Web series. Watch out, WhirlGirl.

MARVEL.COM

marvel.com

WHEN: FALL

The old-school gang comes back swinging.



THE X-FILES



CLINTON CHRONICLES



spotlight

BY PAMELA DES BARRES



LEAVING HIS MARK

Tim Burton stains the Web with a new animated series

He put Batman's big-budget cape in mothballs nearly a decade ago. Now, on the Web, visionary writer-director Tim Burton has found a place to hang the droopy old sheet sported by Stainboy. Based on a character from Burton's book, *The Melancholy Death of Oyster Boy & Other Stories*, Stainboy is a bug-eyed, winsome little superhero who occasionally saves the day with his power to stain the enemy into oblivion. Launched in September on **SHOCKWAVE.COM**, the online animated series was created, designed, and directed by Burton, with music by longtime collaborator Danny Elfman.

"I went through all of the superheroes throughout the history of the genre," Burton says of his character's evolution. "And the only one that I hadn't seen was somebody who just left a stain—which is something I could identify with. I think [the Web] is the perfect medium for him."

So does Shockwave vice president

Michael Yanover, who created an "immersive environment" for the series, called Stainboy World. Here, users can discover what makes Stainboy stain. "When you stumble through the door, you are basically walking into Stainboy's lair," Yanover explains. "But Stainboy's not home. We built this behind-the-scenes area where you can find out more about the characters and their origin stories. You can dig into layer after layer, depending on how much of a fanatic you are."

In the first episode, Stainboy has a face-off with a very naughty character named Staregirl. "Like a lot of stars, Tim doesn't like people staring at him," Yanover observes. "So he's created this villain who just stares at people and drives them crazy." Among its many interactive activities, Stainboy World lets you go eyeball-to-eyeball with Staregirl, or click into Stainboy's profound inner thoughts. Our favorite: "I stain, therefore I am."

New streaming Flash episodes of *X-Men* and *Fantastic Four* are due in October and November, with *Spider-Man* to follow.

NEW BLOOD

distantcorners.com

WHEN: NOVEMBER

A detective transforms into a vampire and gets interactive with undead fans, who can play a game while they follow the story line. Sharpen your fangs, kids. Animated.

ROLAND 99

scifi.com

WHEN: FALL

Stop-motion and Flash animation brings this secret-agent story to life. Who knew they'd still have techno music in the year 2212?

THE X-FILES

thexfiles.com

WHEN: FALL. TV SEASON PREMIERES SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 9 P.M. EASTERN ON FOX.

The plot thickens online for the show's eighth season. Bone up on the mythology at the multimedia time line, or suggest an entry for the User-Generated Official Encyclopedia. When you're good and paranoid, follow the

**DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS: THE MOVIE**

dndmovie.com

WHEN: ONGOING. FILM PREMIERES IN NOVEMBER (TENTATIVE).

It's the only movie this fall that features wizards, clerics, elves, and half-elves. Throngs of role-players are waiting with bated breath to see their fantasy game come alive on the big screen. Drop by this ultimate expression of online fandom for interviews with film luminaries, as well as regular rants on topics like *The Lord of the Rings* versus *D&D*. No surprise which wins that one.



house favorite



MODERN HUMORIST

modernhumorist.com

WHEN: ONGOING

The Web is lousy with smart-asses. But *smart* is the operative word for the wags behind Modern Humorist, which deflates highbrow windbags such as Camille Paglia as deftly as it nails *Big Brother* (recast as a group of goldfish trapped in a single bowl) and other pop-culture low points. Coeditor Michael Colton promises that this year's Fall TV Preview "will be funnier than Michael 'Kramer' Richards's new NBC show." Also on deck: new incarnations of the site's popular Internet propaganda posters (see Cut & Paste, page 66), and First Drafts of famous movie scenes (Darth Vader: "Luke, I am your cousin!").

link to the Lone Gunmen, who will be getting their own series in March.

Comedy

THE SOUTH PARK HALLOWEEN 2000 CONTEST AND CHAT

comedycentral.com

WHEN: LATE OCTOBER. CHECK SITE ON OCTOBER 1 FOR DATE AND TIME.

Why should Cartman and the gang have all the fun? Create a *South Park* costume and be judged—live, online—by the show's executives. They'll chat with you too.

AUDIBLE.COM'S COMEDY SHOWS

audible.com

WHEN: ONGOING

Stand-up celebs Greg Proops (*Whose Line Is It Anyway?*) and Steve Marmel (Comedy Central) yuk it up in a weekly audiocast.

CLINTON CHRONICLES

mediatrist.com

WHEN: ONGOING

So what's President Clinton really up to during the final months of his final term? According to this live-action lame-duck sitcom, it's not achieving world peace.

VIRTUALLY FUNNY WILL DURST

aentv.com/willdurst

WHEN: ONGOING

The veteran political satirist puts Election 2000 under the microscope with daily commentary. Candidates, watch your backs.

ZOMBIE COLLEGE

icebox.com

WHEN: ONGOING

Yeah, it's a little gross. But *Zombie College* is also an addictively funny, and sometimes even tender, depiction of freshman year in a place where the excuse for late papers is "My roommate ate my brain." Animated.

THE SIMPSONS

thesimpsons.com

WHEN: SEPTEMBER. TV SEASON PREMIERES SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 8 P.M. EASTERN ON FOX.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of America's most highly functional family, the site kicks into overdrive. Watch for major tie-ins during the Simpsons Global Fanfest Week-end in California (October 27–29).

ALLY McBEAL

fox.com

WHEN: EARLY OCTOBER. TV SEASON PREMIERES MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 9 P.M. EASTERN ON FOX.

Ally's skirts may be skimpy, but the site is beefing up. Write to the erotically obsessed lawyer and get advice on men, sex, men, and sex. Or use the Dream Sequence Generator to create animated shorts based on the show's infamous leaps of fantasy.

X-LAX MEN

entertaindom.com

WHEN: EARLY FALL

From the wacked brains behind *Mission: IMP* with Verne Troyer comes this short about flatulent mutant superheroes (get it?).

DAX

shockwave.com

WHEN: FALL

Dax got his start as the pet rat in the animated online sitcom *Ignatius and Olga*. Now he has transformed into a cigar-puffing

BB = BEST WITH BROADBAND

Hollywood lawyer who makes big bucks off celebrity sleaze. In other words, a rat.

O'GRADY HIGH

shockwave.com

WHEN: FALL

From squigglevision king Tom Snyder, who created Comedy Central's *Dr. Katz: Professional Therapist*, comes an online sitcom billed as "*Dawson's Creek* meets *The X-Files*." Wait, wasn't that *Roswell*?

EDWARD THE LESS

scifi.com

WHEN: WINTER

Time-traveling backward to offend fantasy purists everywhere, this animated satire, which springs from the minds of *Mystery Science Theater 3000* alumni, takes aim at J.R.R. Tolkien.

Kids

THE INTRUDER

toonami.com; cartoonnetwork.com

WHEN: ONGOING. TV-WEB EVENT RUNS SEPTEMBER 18–22 ON CARTOON NETWORK. The Toonami show block gets convergent.



house favorite



CAMP CHAOS

campchaos.com

ONGOING

Lars Ulrich set himself up for a backlash when he targeted Metallica fans who were trading free MP3s on Napster. But nobody returned fire as swiftly and as surely as animator Bob Cesca, who created Mötley Crüe's *Metalligreed* answer video and launched his own ever-evolving Napster Bad! series. Watch Ulrich busting heads on *MetallicOPS* and leading Elton John, Dr. Dre, and other superstars in an uplifting chorus of "Sue All the World."

On the air, Toonami host Tom battles alien invaders. On the Net, viewers play games and explore Tom's ship in 3-D.

102 DALMATIANS

102dalmatians.com

**WHEN: ONGOING. FILM PREMIERES
NOVEMBER 22.**

Get a leg up on the Disney sequel by enrolling your virtual canine in obedience school. Then outfit the pooch in furry fashions from Cruella DeVil's boutique and send your model down the catwalk. Or, er, dogwalk.

PIKI & POKO ADVENTURES IN STARLAND

mondamedia.com

WHEN: ONGOING

Two teen heroines confront talking squid and malignant candy-canes in this *anime*-inspired series.

REAL SCARY STORIES

realscarystories.com

**WHEN: OCTOBER. TV SHOW PREMIERES
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, ON FOX FAMILY.**

Kids shared their own scary stories for the new TV series. The site accepts submissions throughout the season.



KATBOT

katbot.com

WHEN: SEPTEMBER

She's lime green, sports a cunning pair of antennae, and wears a too-cool-for-school expression of perpetual disdain. Meet Katbot, the punk-rockin' feline from outer space who goes undercover in a Hicksville, Long Island, high school to study Earthling culture. Will her cover as an Eastern European exchange student be blown? Will she find true love with Eddie, the troubled scion of "kat-nip" abusers? Tune in and find out.



spotlight

BY BRIAN MILLER



STAR SEARCH

Filmmaker Tamara Paris stumbles to Hollywood, via the Net

The Web is full of get-rich-quick schemes, but who honestly believes that Ed McMahon is going to come knocking on the door with an oversize cardboard check? Certainly not Tamara Paris. She had to be cajoled into submitting her short film, *It's Only Temporary*, to L.A.-based ANTEYE [anteye.com], then ended up with a \$100,000 production deal for her next project.

Paris, a cheerfully self-confident woman in her thirties, was scraping by as a writer-performer in Seattle when her ship came in. "I didn't really know anything about it when I entered," she says of AntEye's effort to publicize its April launch with mobile studios that touched down in six cities. "I was rather pleasantly surprised." So were the other five recipients of AntEye deals, whose work can also be viewed on the site. AntEye plans another hunt this fall, hoping to tap a low-cost reservoir of

eager young talent.

Will people pay to watch short films online? In a word, no—not even gems such as Paris's winning entry, a slyly surreal live-action comedy that dispatches a hapless lad to a temp gig as an organ-grinder's monkey. So AntEye's old-fashioned Hollywood talent search has a new, dot-com twist: The company hopes to profit from original entertainment content that's first been test-marketed on the Web, then refined for television or the multiplex. To that end, AntEye is producing Paris's project as a TV pilot, which started getting nibbles before she shot frame one.

"It's an animated sitcom about a girl, not unlike myself, who puts herself through art school as a stripper," explains Paris. "The pitch is a sort of naughty *Friends*," she adds with a laugh, already sounding like a seasoned Hollywood vet.

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BLAIR WITCH 2: THE BOOK OF SHADOWS

www.blairwitch.com

**WHEN: ONGOING. FILM PREMIERES
OCTOBER 27.**

Can the latest installment in this Web-marketing saga revive last summer's hysteria? Find out more about the new cast; visit killer Rustin Parr and survivor Kyle Brody; and check out weekly site updates such as courtroom transcripts, coroner reports, and other "newfound evidence" from the witch-induced murders. Or peek at archives from the first movie's site—even if that's so 1999.

TIMBERWOLF

entertaindom.com

WHEN: LATE FALL

Marvin the Martian fans rejoice! Legendary animator Chuck Jones is back, with a new character: Timberwolf, aka Thomas T. Wolf.

Artsy Toons

JOE PARADISE

wildbrain.com

WHEN: ONGOING

A square-jawed cubist P.I. blasts his way through a black-and-white cityscape in stylish noir escapades.

KOZIK'S INFERNO

wildbrain.com

WHEN: ONGOING

He has enshrined a generation of punk rockers with his lusciously lurid poster art. Now Frank Kozik tackles Dante's *Inferno*. No word yet on whether Beatrice burns in hell.

ROMANOV

wildbrain.com

WHEN: ONGOING

An enigmatic aesthete with a yin-yang symbol for a face gives new meaning to the term *intellectual posturing*.

STATE OF THE MART

Forget *Survivor*. Enduring as an entertainment portal is the real trial by fire

BY KAREN HEYMAN

The difference between porn on the Web and original entertainment on the Web is that porn makes money—but with entertainment, you can tell your mother what you do for a living. And you can convince yourself you'll be the next Louis B. Mayer. Which is why, post-*Blair Witch* and pre-Nasdaq sell-off, the Web became as hot in Hollywood as Cameron Diaz in *Prada*.

Suddenly, the sort of people who had their assistants print out their e-mail were rushing to helm Web companies. The results were about what you'd expect: stuff like stuff you've seen already, only smaller and harder to view. The running joke became that the management shake-ups, sexual scandals, and financial foot-shooting at many of these sites, especially at noted fiasco DEN: Digital Entertainment Network, were far more interesting than any of their programming. Even early starter **PSEUDO** [pseudo.com] downsized its staff and molted into Pseudo Center, billed as a "free-form, interactive video experience." (Translation: glorified chat, with some topical original shows.)

With the Time Warner-AOL merger (not yet approved at press time), the fate of **ENTERTAINDOM** [entertaindom.com] and other Warner Bros. online ventures remains up in the air. The new behemoth could have a great reality-show hit if it would just turn surveillance cameras on its own offices, where a nasty game of corporate *Survivor* is being played. The AOL side claims it knows more about the Internet—and therefore should take all the TW online jobs. The Warner side claims it knows more about entertainment—and therefore should take all the AOL entertainment jobs. Roasted rat, anyone?

But obscured by the high-profile flame-outs and blink-and-you-missed-it business plans are a handful of sites, such as **ICE-BOX** [icebox.com] and **DISTANT CORNERS** [distantcorners.com], that just might provide the next generation in online entertainment. Or the answers to the 2010 edition of *Trivial Pursuit*.

The heavy buzz is around **SHOCKWAVE.COM** for pulling in Tim Burton (see "Leaving His Mark," page 124), David Lynch, and *South Park* creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone. *Variety* reported that Parker and Stone's first effort was rejected as too gross, but a Shockwave spokesperson denies it: "We weren't expecting *Strawberry Shortcake*." Shockwave says it will disclose the duo's new work once it implements credit card verification to screen out the under-18s.

POP.COM, the much-ballyhooed love child spawned by Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks and Brian Grazer and Ron Howard's

Imagine Entertainment, is still touted as "coming soon."

But while Pop.com may be a crib-death candidate, child prodigy **Z** [z.com] had a hit even before its official fall launch: Z's *Dare for Dollars* is being talked about as a possible syndicated TV series.

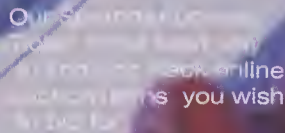
Dare for Dollars, which marries *Ler's Make a Deal* with the bug-munching contests of *Survivor*, may offer the ultimate proof that the Web has been accepted into American pop culture—it was featured in the *National Enquirer*. Nevertheless, the great promise of the Internet as a new creative medium is yet to be fulfilled. As cool as some of the original content is, most online entertainment remains linear, with "interactivity" restricted to e-mail, chat, and simple games. In the fall of 2000, we're still just looking at television with training wheels.



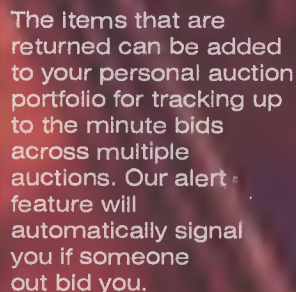
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THE MONSTERS IN MY TUMMY

monsters.z.com

WHEN: ONGOING

Ghoulish creatures torment a jilted lover from inside the belly of the beast. Roman Dirge's illustrated gothic tale begs to be called a heartbreaking work of staggering genius.

Music**MY VHI MUSIC AWARDS**

vhl.com

WHEN: ONGOING. TV AWARDS SHOW AIRS NOVEMBER 30.

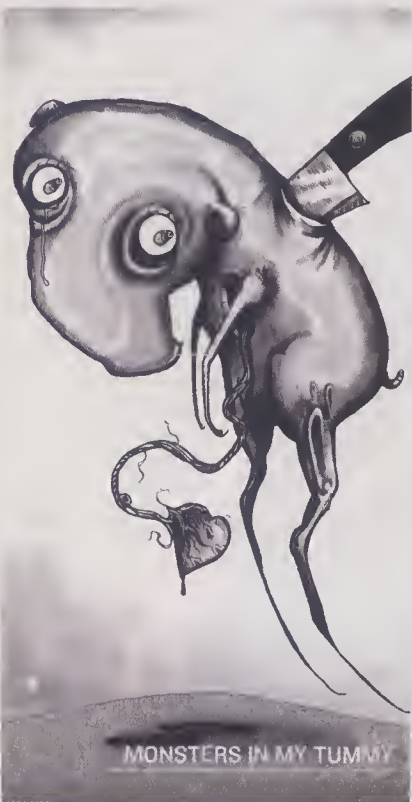
For its first foray into actual music awards, VHI lets fans log on to suggest categories as well as candidates. Once nominees are established, you can vote for the winner right up until the time the award is presented live on TV. No word yet on whether you also get to vote on the acceptance speeches.

BEHIND THE MUSIC THAT SUCKS

heavy.com

WHEN: ONGOING

More clever than the title suggests, this spot-on spoof of VHI's *Behind the Music* exposes Bob Vila as the man who introduced Nine Inch Nails' Trent Reznor to Black & Decker. Artists on deck for similarly shocking revelations include Smashing Pumpkins and Oasis. Animated.

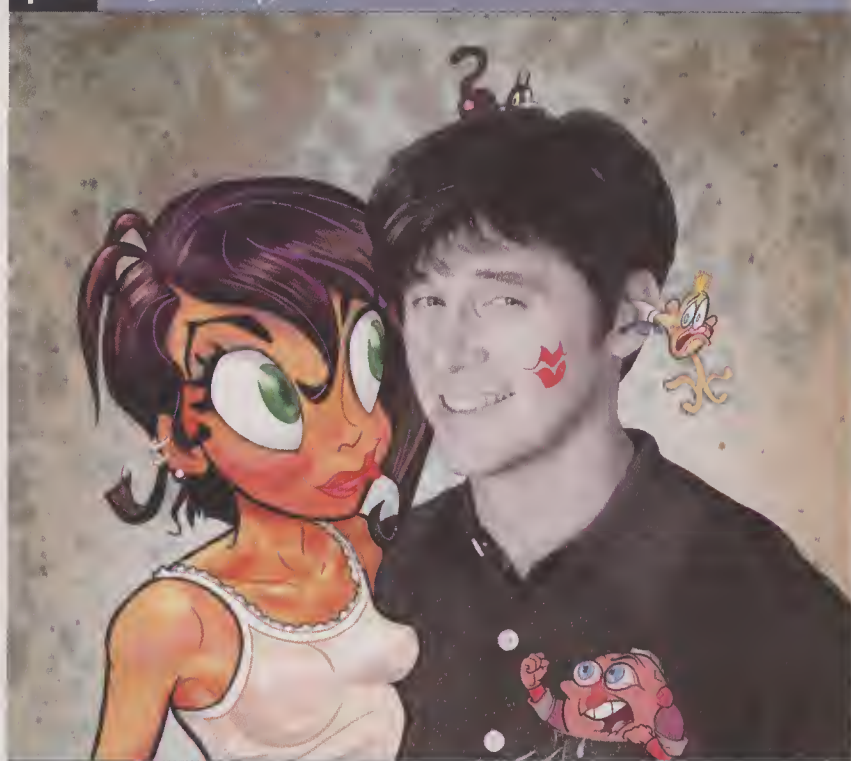


MONSTERS IN MY TUMMY



spotlight

BY PAMELA DES BARRES

**CREATIVE CONTROL FREAK**

Ren & Stimpy creator John Kricfalusi is back in the driver's seat

Animation trailblazer John Kricfalusi is—finally—exactly where he wants to be. After cable channel Nickelodeon booted him off his own *Ren & Stimpy Show*, he hawked his groundbreaking Web ideas to no avail for several years before landing at **ICEBOX** [icebox.com]. Now he's signed an exclusive three-year deal to Webcast three demented series, including his controversial *Goddamn George Liquor Program*. Icebox will also be the sole distributor of Kricfalusi's **SPUMCO** [spumco.com], which is run by the artists themselves.

"I knew that ultimately the creators would be in charge instead of the executives," he declares. So how does it feel to be the boss? "Everybody's afraid of me," he says with a bad-boy grin. "I'm the creative asshole." Along with new episodes of *George Liquor*, Kricfalusi's Spumco studio is producing *Slab n' Ernie*, a spin-off starring George's "little holy terror

nephews," and *Weekend Pussy Hunt*, about the relationship between a cat and dog. All feature batty games and prizes, and are outrageously interactive.

Spumco's modest quarters in Glendale, California, are clogged with fresh young faces buried in their sketchpads and strawberry-colored iMacs. Soon their ranks will expand in a much larger space up the street, which will accommodate 80 new artists hired to work on cartoon episodes and Kricfalusi's pioneering online commercials.

"[Show] the character in some underwear and we'll take people to the Web page where they can order it," he explains. "As long as it's entertaining, people will watch it." Kricfalusi has great faith in the power of the Web community: "Put the culture back into the hands of the creative people, and let the public decide. They're gonna pick the good stuff—they're not gonna go with the crap."



ALMOST FAMOUS



DANCER IN THE DARK



house favorite



TIMMYBIGHANDS

timmybighands.com

WHEN: ONGOING

After a decade of giving bad movies a good name on TV's *Mystery Science Theater 3000*, the *MST3K* team has found bigger fish to fry. This new online humor magazine tackles such hard-hitting subjects as "The Dangers of Inappropriate Zoning." "Look for the stirring conclusion of our serial novel, *Cry Dry Your Eyes, Sweet Bette*," says Kevin Murphy, best known as the voice of *MST3K*'s wisecracking bot Tom Servo. Murphy also promises "a much purer form of killing" in the sequel to the action game *Kill a Guy II*, and a new poetry theme: drinking.

HEAVY METAL GUY

mondomedia.com

WHEN: ONGOING

This musical cartoon might make you yearn for the days when *Headbangers Ball* ruled the airwaves. Or maybe not.

ALMOST FAMOUS

almost-famous.com

WHEN: ONGOING. FILM PREMIERES IN SEPTEMBER.

A fab faux tribute page to the fictional band Stillwater, whose road-tour shenanigans are the subject of director Cameron Crowe's new film. View rarities like an unused ticket for a Black Sabbath-Stillwater gig, and meet the groupies known as Band-Aids.

DANCER IN THE DARK

www.dancerinthedarkmovie.com

WHEN: ONGOING. FILM PREMIERES IN LATE SEPTEMBER.

Lars von Trier's recent Cannes Film Festival winner is Björk's long-awaited acting debut. Hear the Icelandic crooner—playing

a factory worker who finds respite in song—belt out show tunes on the site.

ENTERTAINDOM'S LIVE CONCERT SERIES

entertaindom.com

WHEN: EARLY FALL

New star performances, interviews, and rehearsal footage every month from an eclectic mix of artists such as Everclear, MeShell Ndegéocello, and Groove Armada.

JAZZ

pbs.org/jazz

**WHEN: OCTOBER. TV SHOW PREMIERES
JANUARY 2001 ON PBS.**

Get some culture with this companion site to the Ken Burns documentary. Interviews, outtakes, and all that multimedia jazz.

Educational

BARNES & NOBLE TELEVISION

bn.com/community/bntv

WHEN: ONGOING

Three-minute "book videos" spotlight works such as Da Chen's memoir of growing up in China during the Cultural Revolution, prov-



one to watch



DIRECT EFFECT (DFX)

mtv.com

WHEN: PREMIERES MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, ON MTV AND ONLINE.

Tired of battling Britney Spears fans—and congested phone lines—at *Total Request Live*? Prefer Puff Daddy to Backstreet Boys? Log on while *DFX* is airing and cast your vote online for which hip-hop video gets played next by house deejay Funkmaster Flex. *Real World Hawaii* alumnus Teck hosts the show live from MTV's Times Square Studios, where rap royalty will drop by the high-tech cyberlounge.



spotlight

BY HEIDI LAFLECHE



WHIRL POWER

An exclusive interview with a superheroic superstar

With the brains of Gillian Anderson and the bod of Pamela Anderson, WhirlGirl battles the tyranny of ZoneWerks, an "evil media-tech empire" in the late 21st century. "She's a Wonder Woman for the new generation," says Visionary Media's David Williams, who conceived of *WhirlGirl* in 1995 and has just launched her second season as a weekly Flash series on **SHOWTIME** [sho.com]. We caught up with this super-chick between adventures.

What's on your freedom-fighting agenda this fall?

I'll be rocketing into space to rescue my mother and other rebels from a moon-based prison colony.

Saving the virtual universe from tyranny must get tiring.

It's not the battling evil, it's the little things. Who can find time to have your pleather halter buffed when a giant robot is trampling the city?

What was it like teaming up with Barbarian Moron from SCIFI.COM?

At first I thought he was, well, moronic. And he thought I was sent from the gods to feed his hunger for destruction. But we developed a rapport.

Penn and Teller appeared in your Las Vegas adventure. What other celebs would you like to work with?

Russell Crowe is a hottie deluxe. Since *Gladiator*, I've been thinking it might be time to go back to ancient Rome and kick some centurion butt.

Who would win in a fight between you and Lara Croft?

It wouldn't be a fair fight. I take out cyborg armies before breakfast. Isn't Lara an archaeologist? I'm sure she could take me to school on grave digging.

What's your relationship with David Williams?

That control freak? If it wasn't for my heroic compassion, I'd be scraping that propeller-head off the sole of my boot.

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STUCK IN THE SLOW LANE?

Even without broadband, Web animation rocks. Want more? Get connected

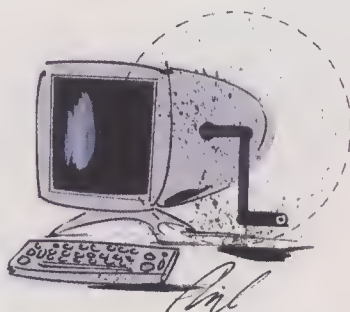
BY GORDON BASS

After you finish devouring this fall online entertainment issue, you're going to head to your PC, log on to the Net, and check out the highlights, right?

Not so fast. While most of the Web entertainment we've rounded up here won't stymie the average modem, the live-action shows flagged as Best with Broadband—cable, DSL, or satellite—are probably out of reach. All that streaming video, the kind you watch with RealPlayer or Windows Media Player? You don't have the speed for it.

Yes, you're streaming-impaired, but that's nothing to be ashamed of. Despite all the buzz about broadband, most of us still get on the Internet via an old-school dial-up connection. Forrester Research predicts that by the end of this year, fewer than 6 million American households will be connected to the Net via broadband. The rest, 46 million strong, will still be plugging in and logging on at 56Kbps, or even at 28.8K.

The problem is this: With a standard dial-up connection, it can take several seconds for a single image to appear on your screen.



Unless you're willing to squint at a jerky movie playing on a square-inch patch of your screen, you can forget about ditching your TV in favor of your PC; you won't get a cinematic experience.

Fortunately, much of the best new content is animated fare that doesn't demand broadband. Many of the top shows featured here, like *WhirlGirl* and Tim Burton's *Stainboy*, are created in Macromedia Flash, which works particularly well with slower connections. You'll get a headache trying to watch the trailer for a new Hollywood film, but you can fill

your screen with the animated tales of *Radiskull & Devil Doll!*

But why limit yourself? Fast access is increasingly affordable. To find out what's available in your area, check out a comparison site such as **GETCONNECTED** [getconnected.com]. Enter your ZIP code to learn which companies in your area offer broadband services, and which plans are available. We found that Verizon offers DSL in New York City from \$39.95 per month, while in Los Angeles GTE's DSL service starts at only \$32.50.

ing that not all original Web content is of the gross-out genre. Heads up, MTV.

NAPOLEON

pbs.org/empires/napoleon

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 14. TV SHOW PREMIERES WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, ON PBS.

Don't just learn about Napoleon—be Napoleon on the site's interactive battlefield simulator. Rewrite the Battle of Waterloo, and find out what kind of emperor you'd be.

HISTORY IQ

historychannel.com

WHEN: ONGOING. TV SHOW AIRS MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 7:30 P.M. EASTERN AND PACIFIC ON THE HISTORY CHANNEL.

At-home viewers play along online with the new game show for actual prizes. Top scorers on the Web also get instant fame by having their names appear on the TV broadcast.

GHOSTLY HOMES OF CHARLESTON

hgtv.com

WHEN: OCTOBER. TV SHOW AIRS OCTOBER 29, 9 P.M. AND 12 A.M. EASTERN ON HGTV.

If you don't discover something spooky on this Home and Garden TV special, you still might see a ghost or two on the site's Web cam.



RADISKULL & DEVIL DOLL!

shockwave.com

WHEN: ONGOING

A real charmer. Creator Joe Sparks teams a disembodied skull who talks like Frankenstein's monster with a pipsqueaky pal who resembles the Pillsbury Doughboy with horns. The two love to "kick it," rap-metal style—which is usually when colleagues gravitate to our PC. While awaiting new fall episodes, don't miss "Hella Weenie," in which the dynamic duo gleefully banish "happy" from the haunted holiday by wishing us a "very bad, very sad, disgusting Halloween."

WILD CALIFORNIA

travel.discovery.com

WHEN: LATE OCTOBER/EARLY NOVEMBER. TV SHOW AIRS NOVEMBER 12.

After watching the Travel Channel special, visit the site for video clips and IPIX tours of the unusual vacations, which range from rock-climbing lessons to circus-performer school. There's also info on how to book your own trip.

UNWRAPPED: THE MYSTERIOUS WORLD OF MUMMIES

tlc.discovery.com

WHEN: LATE NOVEMBER. SHOW PREMIERES SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 8 P.M. EASTERN

Bone up on the dead by hitting this site for the Learning Channel special, where you can unwrap a mummy, take an IPIX tour of a crypt, or participate in a Webcast Q&A with noted Egyptologist Bob Brier.

INSIDE THE SPACE STATION

discovery.com

WHEN: NOVEMBER. TV SHOW PREMIERES SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, ON THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL.

Gear up for the TV special with a virtual tour and an interactive video look inside the International Space Station.



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REFRIGERATOR ART

Moldy leftovers jump-started Ariel Prendergast's career

Once upon a time, all it took to become a Hollywood star was to be a leggy beauty sipping a soda at the right lunch counter. The Web isn't too far past that delirious phase—only in this grungy era, it takes tossing out somebody's leftover lunch to get discovered.

Ariel Prendergast (his parents were hippies, not Shakespearean scholars) was working as a facilities assistant at Wild Brain animation studio when he was assigned to clean out the company refrigerator. But where most people just see a job that would disgust the county coroner, Ariel realized that his nagging e-mails about unclaimed food would be read by the entire company. He cast himself as the antihero in a serial science fiction story, and sent around weekly tales of his hopeless battles with mutant mold monsters.

The play worked. Wild Brain's senior creative staff was sucked in by his harrowing tales and by a sample comic strip Prender-

gast had done as a teenager. His first break was creating a commercial campaign, which led to a staff writing job. But stardom will come this fall, when *Frank Tripper: The Perfect Weapon*, based on his high school comic strip (and his mild-mannered biology teacher), premieres on WILDBRAIN.COM.

With a German mother, Prendergast has an eye for both an Old World aesthetic and the sometimes over-the-top absurdity of American pop culture. "Frank Tripper is a satire of ultra-action stories," he explains. "The action-adventure plots are American, with the European cartoon style of Sergio Argonés and *Tintin*."

The 26-year-old artist is grateful to his Wild Brain boss, former facilities manager Carrie Hourihan, for giving him the opportunity to be discovered: "She took on a lot of work for herself so I could pursue this chance." Still, we can't help but wonder where his career would be if the Wild Brain folks had kept a neater refrigerator.

Action

CYBER BOND

tbssuperstation.com

WHEN: OCTOBER 1-15

It's "Bond, James Bond" time again on TBS. This year's Web component of the Superstation's *15 Days of 007* has trivia, interviews, and community, with content synced to whichever movie is playing (HyperTV plug-in needed).

UNBREAKABLE

areyouunbreakable.com

WHEN: ONGOING. FILM PREMIERES LATE NOVEMBER.

Bruce Willis survives train wrecks and more in this supernatural thriller from *The Sixth Sense* director M. Night Shyamalan. Meet other "unbreakables," such as Explosion Proof Man, and diagnose your own chances of making it through a plane crash unscathed.



Celeb Gossip

TOTALLY TUBE

eonline.com

WHEN: PREMIERES SEPTEMBER 18. POLL CLOSES SEPTEMBER 29.

E! Online's fall season roundup has gossip, celebrity interviews, and a poll where you can vote on which shows will be hits or misses.

EYADA GOSSIP SUMMIT

eyada.com

WHEN: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2-5 P.M. EASTERN

Two dozen of the world's top rumormongers, including Richard Johnson of the *New York Post's* Page Six, convene to dish the dirt on how the Web has affected their trade.

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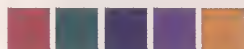
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spotlight

BY DONALD MILLER



REALLY STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

The hyperbizarre, handmade film world of **Martha Colburn**

The art form of collage naturally lends itself to the subversive. The methodical juxtaposition of disparate images, often chosen for their innate banality, can become a parody of commercial culture or just the startling experience of the ordinary turned unreal. Through stop-action techniques, collage became a new category of animation, and it currently boasts Martha Colburn as a champion.

For much of the last decade, Colburn has been creating ultra low-tech film phantasmagorias in her no-budget loft in glamorous downtown Baltimore. She pastes and hand-paints images from a vast library of found footage, '50s magazine ads, soft-core pinups, and her own original art. The results are hysterically disturbing shorts: American suburban kitsch is turned into a parallel universe populated by neighborly vampires and arachnophiliacs.

"I'm still in the Neanderthal Age of carting around my 16mm prints in my suitcase,"

says Colburn, who has been presenting her films at festivals and clubs across the U.S. and Europe. So it was with some ambivalence that she relinquished six of her crowd favorites—including *Evil of Dracula*, *Spiders in Love*, and *There's a Pervert in Our Pool!*—to IFILM [ifilm.com].

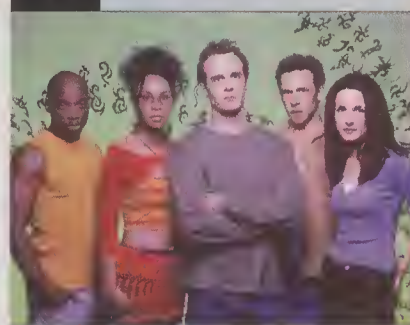
"I haven't even seen the site," Colburn admits. "Whenever I use the public library [computer], I just crash the system and give up." She also misses the human interface that her own shows provide. "If I find out that 250 people have seen my films on the Net, that doesn't make up for meeting one person who was inspired by them. I definitely do not create my work with the Internet in mind."

The fact remains that anyone with a media player can now gain access to Colburn's very different world, where a young kid with bloodshot eyes and fangs drools over a bowl of red liquid that began its life as Campbell's tomato soup. *Bon appetit!*

BB = BEST WITH BROADBAND



one to watch



FREAKYLINKS

freakylinks.com

WHEN: ONGOING. SHOW PREMIERES FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 8 P.M. EASTERN ON FOX.

The heavily hyped new series from Gregg Hale, producer of *The Blair Witch Project*, continues to milk the fact-or-fiction conceit with a site that does its best to obliterate the fourth wall. Ostensibly run by Derek, *FreakyLinks*'s main character, who investigates the far fringes of the weird wide Web, it includes links to sites that may or may not be part of the show. You can also visit OCCULTRESEARCH.COM, a defunct page supposedly written by Derek's now-deceased twin brother. We sense trouble from this dead ringer.

Counterculture

MOTHER MAY I CONTROL MY OWN CONSCIOUSNESS?

culturejam.com

WHEN: SEPTEMBER

Aiming to subvert mainstream media, this audio-video series examines how the war on drugs affects personal freedom. Trippy.

Short Films

360 DEGREES FORWARD



atomfilms.com

WHEN: LATE FALL

After the positive response to its first 360-degree film, AtomFilms sponsored a contest to create the next one. Watch winner Joe Riley's short, *Coming of Age*.

RESFEST 2000



resfest.com

WHEN: FALL

The RESFEST 2000 tour of award-winning shorts starts in September. Rollouts continue online. View the cinematic future today.



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Music Festival

The Voodoo Music Festival® returns for its second year Saturday, October 28th in New Orleans. Acts include Stone Temple Pilots, Eminem, 311, Cypress Hill, Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals, Counting Crows, Live, Blues Traveler and many more. Tickets are available at www.voodoomusicfest.com or through Ticketmaster.

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FREE KEVIN

(oh, he is?)

The world's most notorious hacker is released, sort of

With the appearance of the I Love You bug and the spate of denial-of-service attacks on commercial and government Web sites, hackers are back in the news. But years before, Kevin Mitnick was the most famous hacker in the world. After a computer crime spree that spanned 15 years—his first arrest was in 1980—during which he became the FBI's most wanted cybercriminal, Mitnick was tracked down, charged with a total of 25 counts, (including wire fraud and illegal possession of computer files and passwords), convicted,

and sentenced to prison. Through the 1980s and early 1990s, Mitnick, now 36, hacked his way into the supposedly secure computer systems of Motorola, Sun, Nokia, Fujitsu, NEC, and Novell, and stole information and software. He claims he never sold or in any way profited from the thefts. He did it, he says, for the challenge. He has said he felt like James Bond. Still, according to figures calculated by law enforcement officials (figures that Mitnick disputes), he caused at least \$300 million in damage, with millions spent on new security systems alone.

In 1995, the FBI—aided by Tsutomu Shimomura, a computer scientist who claims to have been a victim of a hack attack by Mitnick—caught up with him.

But it was the terms of Mitnick's parole that caused the spotlight to shine on him once again. Sentenced to nearly five years in jail, Mitnick was released early this year under unprecedented conditions: He cannot touch a computer or, without limitations, a cell phone, or any other device that allows him to get onto the Net.

Mitnick's supporters, who see him as a geek hero who brought the art of hacking to a totally new level, launched a "Free Kevin" campaign online [freekevin.com]. They say they're appalled by the U.S. government's stipulations, claiming that these amount to police-state tactics. But Mitnick's detractors maintain that he got off lightly. He admits to years of intercepting private e-mail messages, for example, yet no

by David Sheff // PHOTOS BY BLAKE LITTLE

MITNICK!



charges were brought as a result of that.

When we met with Mitnick in Westlake, California, a quiet San Fernando Valley suburb halfway between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, we noticed that he had a cell phone in a case attached to his belt. Wasn't that off-limits? Mitnick explained that he had made a deal with his probation officer: He can keep the cell phone as long as the court gets a copy of his monthly phone bill. If the court was to determine that Mitnick used the phone to go online, his probation would be considered violated.

In oval tortoiseshell glasses, shirtsleeves, blue jeans, and a gold chain necklace, Mitnick said that he has been spending his time taking care of his father (who is recovering from bypass surgery) while gearing up for the next phase of his life. What kind of job will history's best-known cybercriminal try to get when he is completely free on January 20, 2003? Internet security specialist.

Y-LIFE: When you were imprisoned in 1995, the Web was still in its budding stages. Have you had a chance to see it in its current form?

MITNICK: When I visited the University of Southern California, I went to the School of Communications. I met the staff there, and they showed me their operations and where they do their editing for an online journalism review. They have a whole workbook filled with computers that are connected to the Web. So they showed me their Web page. I stood behind them and watched it. I also saw some Web sites when I was at CNN as an on-air commentator.

Y-LIFE: So you're allowed to look but not touch?

MITNICK: I can watch other people who are working on a computer. I just can't use or possess one. In fact, when I was walking through Kinko's the other night to copy some stuff, I passed by this lady who was working on a computer. I glanced at the screen, and she was at some Web site called Jdates.com, where she was looking to meet Jewish singles. I started laughing. I thought, "Oh, my God, it's amazing how focused the Web can be on a particular subject." It's like a whole library at your fingertips.

Y-LIFE: When you get that close to a computer, are you tempted to touch the keyboard?

MITNICK: No, it's not really a big deal.

Y-LIFE: But you were certainly driven to continue hacking—even in prison. Why?

MITNICK: The intellectual challenge, the thrill, the escape, the quest for knowledge, and to know how things work. I loved try-

ing to make hardware or software do things they were not meant to do. For example, I was a big ham-radio operator. I liked to tinker. I used to take AM/FM radios apart and figure out how to tune the coils to pick up aircraft bands. That was hacking. You're on the edge of the law. You're doing something sneaky that you're not supposed to do.

Y-LIFE: But you also stole credit card numbers and software source code, and cloned phones.

MITNICK: True, but I had a strange combination of morals and ethics. I wouldn't cross the line and try to live off people's credit cards, because I viewed that as being criminal. I viewed what I was doing as exploratory, even though it violated federal or state statutes. I thought of it as I would think of driving through a red light. That's how I justified it to myself. I wasn't really ripping people off.

I did clone into legitimate cellular subscriber accounts. It allowed me to evade detection and mask my location from potential adversaries. People would get these huge bills, but they wouldn't be made to pay them. The cellular company would write off the costs. But I felt bad about the trauma and hassle I'm sure I caused a lot of people. I felt more remorse for cloning someone's phone than for copying the source code of Motorola's cell phone. At the time, I looked at a company like Motorola as a stone wall. It was not a living entity; it was a machine.

Y-LIFE: However, Motorola, among other companies, claimed you caused upward of \$300 million in damages.

MITNICK: The \$300 million was a bogus number. It was based on the research and development costs for writing the software I stole. The only way the government could convince the media, the public, and the courts that I was the hacker from hell—a cybermonster—was to show how much harm I had done.

Y-LIFE: You feel the reported damage was inflated?

MITNICK: Right. After all, they couldn't convict me for being a super pain in the ass. They had to prove that I was more than a computer voyeur. They had to show that I had caused serious dollar damage.

But the government never even alleged that I intended to sell, disclose, or use any of the software.

Y-LIFE: In spite of all this, you were invited to testify before the Senate about hacking and security issues.

MITNICK: Yes, weeks after my release I was asked to testify before the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, because they were interested in passing legislation to protect computer systems belonging to the federal government. Essentially, they wanted to know if the legislation they were

passing would adequately protect them. I simply explained some security risks they might not have been aware of.

Y-LIFE: Such as?

MITNICK: I explained a nontechnical attack called social engineering, which is when you phone or mail someone and trick

them into giving you information. It's easier to get the data you want from a target computer by deceiving a user who has legitimate access to it.

Y-LIFE: "Social engineering" sounds like a fancy name for fraud.

MITNICK: Yes, I know. You persuade the person to give the info to you, such as a Social Security number or a tax return. To do this, you would have to establish some means of authentication. For instance, you could break into an internal voice-mail system and create a voice mailbox. This way, the person could look you up in their internal directory and call you back for verification.

Y-LIFE: When was the last time you tried this scam?

MITNICK: When I was trying to avoid federal authorities in the early '90s. I had to create new identities. Sometimes when an infant dies, the child's parents have already applied for a Social Security number for the kid. I would find and use these identities, which were very important for opening a bank account and getting credit. A lot of databases rely on your Social Security number, and you definitely need one to get work. Also, you can get a person's birth certificate so long as you know your target's full name, his date and place of birth, his father's name, and his mother's maiden name. And now, with the explosion of the Internet, people are sharing this informa-

**'They
couldn't
convict me for
being a super pain
in the ass. They had
to show that I had
caused serious
dollar damage'**

tion at Web sites. This is a huge problem that will be tough to stop.

Y-LIFE: What steps do you think need to be taken to stop identity theft?

MITNICK: Off the top of my head, I think the government has to establish some sort of central database that uses biometric identifiers, such as your DNA, that can label you as you. This might eliminate a lot of identity theft, because anyone can apply for credit by supplying information over the phone. This is why I thought it was amazing I got permission to get a cell phone; my parole officer was kind enough to let me get one on the condition that I give him a copy of my monthly bill.

One of my friends also has a cell phone, and he says he can use it or the Internet to pull up his bill and monthly statements. I was amazed. I asked him how the phone company identifies you as you. He said they ask for an account number and a Social Security number. And I just started laughing.

Y-LIFE: Because the security is a joke?

MITNICK: It's totally weak. Anybody who puts their mind to it can get your Social Security number and thus obtain copies of your bills.

Y-LIFE: Do you believe stealing information is easier now than ever before?

MITNICK: Yes, but what's more important is that the popularity of the Internet has increased the potential number of victims. A lot of people don't take the time to configure their systems properly. A lot of software products have security vulnerabilities that can be exploited, and these vulnerabilities attract the criminal element. Not only can criminals steal confidential credit card numbers and research and development information online, but they can also get into a site's Web server and order products—even have them shipped.

Y-LIFE: Do you think that, given the time and access to a PC, you could break into any of the computers you broke into five years ago?

MITNICK: That's hard to say. I think if I put my mind to it I could still be a successful hacker, because I was so good at the social engineering component. No matter

what technological solutions people use—firewalls, encryption, limited dial-in access, or strong authentication devices like biometric identifiers—you can always find somebody who has legitimate access to the information you want and trick them into giving it to you. Or you could simply run a Trojan horse, which is a program that basically opens a secret back door on someone's



'I had a strange combination of morals and ethics. I viewed what I was doing as exploratory, even though it violated federal or state statutes'

computer. Today, it's just a matter of finding a gullible user, sending him an e-mail with an attachment, and having him launch the attachment.

Y-LIFE: Have you considered going legit and offering your hacking expertise to the companies whose computers you broke into years ago?

MITNICK: If I could help companies with their security preparedness and make them more aware of risks, then great. I'm hoping to establish a career as a security consultant, but it's difficult to do without access to a

computer and all of the new platforms that are popular today, such as Windows NT and 2000. When I was in custody, a beta version of Windows 95 was just released.

Also, the conditions of my supervised release stipulate that I cannot be employed or perform services for any companies that are in the telecommunications, computer software, or computer businesses. I cannot act as an adviser or consultant to any individual or group engaged in any computer-related activities. This lasts for three years—until January 20, 2003. I also signed what's called an assignment agreement. If I were to write a book or do a movie, any monies I received would be assignable to the U.S. government, who would act as a trustee for the victims of my crimes. This contract expires in seven years.

Y-LIFE: Will you consider working for the government?

MITNICK: I don't see myself becoming a cybercop and joining the FBI. I just don't see myself doing that kind of work. And I would not become an informant, because I don't think they have integrity. Informants befriend you and are very deceptive. I don't have that kind of personality.

Y-LIFE: Like Tsutomu Shimomura, the computer scientist who aided authorities in apprehending you in 1995?

MITNICK: No, I would characterize Shimomura as a vigilante hacker. He believed I hacked into his system, and that was his reason for going after me. He intercepted my communications without a court order and shared information with federal authorities.

Y-LIFE: And helped nail you? Which led to almost five years in prison.

MITNICK: Yes, and I spent four and a half years as a pretrial detainee. I was in prison with people who were sentenced mostly on drug-related crimes and bank robbery.

Y-LIFE: Were you respected in prison, or were you viewed as a geek or nerd?

MITNICK: I was respected because of the intellectual nature of the crime, but on the other hand I was disrespected because I didn't commit crimes for the money. People couldn't believe that. There were countless times when inmates would come up to me and say, "After you get out, are

you going to hook up with me? We'll make millions!" I remember one guy who was in prison on drug charges and had a life sentence commuted to 75 years. He offered me \$5 million in cash if I could get into some computer system and get him released.

Y-LIFE: And how do guards treat hackers?

MITNICK: Well, back in 1997, one of the prison authority's geniuses decided he was going to put me in the hole—solitary confinement—because I was a security threat. He believed I could take my AM/FM Walkman radio and modify it into some sort of transmitter and bug the warden's office. It was absurd. I would have had to break into the office, which was outside the protected entrance of the prison, then break back into my cell. Just absurd.

Something similar happened in 1988, when I was arrested for breaking into Digital Equipment Corporation's network. During my initial appearance before a federal magistrate, an assistant U.S. Attorney claimed that if I was given access to an inmate telephone in the detention center I could start World War III. Was this claim the result of ignorance, or was it deliberate? I really don't know, [but I ended up in solitary]. There were many allegations: that I was so pissed off at a judge that I ruined the guy's credit, that I planted a false news story that caused Security Pacific National Bank to lose \$400 million.

Y-LIFE: People have reason not to trust you.

MITNICK: I've

always been distrusted. I tried to join the club a bunch of times, so to speak. Finally, I said, "Screw this, I can't find a good job." So I just went back to hacking. I tried to go over to the good side, the legitimate side. For instance, I was hired at the company where my wife worked. It was great. I was there for about a week and a half, and then their security department found out about it and the company fired me right away.

I remember another company I worked for that sent me to this convention in Las Vegas, called DECUS. I wanted to attend a session for computer managers on security. I met a security consultant there who introduced me to some of my adversaries in cyberspace. After they found out I was there, security kicked me out of the con-

ference. It was a humiliating experience, especially having to go back to my employer. I told him, "Hey, I have good news and bad news. The good news is I can work today. The bad news is I was kicked out of DECUS." I can only imagine what was going through his mind. The moral of the story is, every time I tried to integrate myself into the computer community and obtain work in the field, I wasn't accepted.

Y-LIFE: Today, however, some hackers look up to you, especially some of the younger ones. Do you think you deserve to be looked up to?

MITNICK: Well, there are people to whom I'm a hero. And there are people that dislike me—people who don't even know me. It's kind of strange to me, because I'm a modest person. I don't consider myself a genius in any way. I'm just good at thinking my way around obstacles and solving puzzles. I haven't really met or spoken with any of the younger hackers. There's a lot of e-mail that gets sent to my e-mail account, which is sponsored by a Web site called **2600.COM**. They print the messages, then forward them to me via snail mail. Many of them read, "Will you teach me how to hack? I want

to hack into my school." I just laugh at this stuff.

Y-LIFE: Do you offer any advice?

MITNICK: I encourage the hackers of today to experiment on their own systems. It is completely affordable to get a desktop computer and run Linux or Unix on it.

You can set up your

own network at home, hack your own computers, and get the same intellectual challenge and thrill without encroaching on the property rights of others. Back in the days when I started with playing around with computers, hacking wasn't taboo. In fact, the public at large thought it was cute. It was *Mission: Impossible*-type stuff.

Y-LIFE: After the Net attacks earlier this year, do you think the public's perception of hackers has changed?

MITNICK: The media have created so many different definitions of a hacker. I've commented publicly that the media distort what it means to be a hacker.

Y-LIFE: Your father once claimed that *New York Times* reporter John Markoff misrepresented who you are and turned your

case into front-page news.

MITNICK: Absolutely. Markoff libeled me on the front page of *The New York Times*. He printed the same myth the courts used back in 1988 to hold me in solitary confinement for eight months. In his reporting, he also never disclosed that he wrote a book of which I was a major subject. I failed to cooperate with him on the book, which had a very derogatory take on me. I had also sabotaged a movie deal that was to be based on his book. The result was that Markoff lost out on the deal. [Markoff stands by his reporting and rejects Mitnick's interpretation of events.—Ed.]

Y-LIFE: If you were upset by the accusations, why didn't you charge him with libel?

MITNICK: Well, I was naive. I had just gotten out of prison, and I wanted to get my life together. I didn't have the money to hire legal counsel. There were a lot of different factors. I figured, nobody's going to read this book. By the time I got smart, a year had passed and the statute of limitations was up.

Y-LIFE: But now that you're out of prison, is it your goal to tell your side of the story?

MITNICK: Well, that brings up another sore subject. I was kind of misled into a whole *60 Minutes* segment. I was told it was going to be about how the government can screw you over and how it unfairly makes examples of people, such as Kevin Mitnick. I had an agreement with the show about the nature of the story; this agreement was solidified with lawyers and with my media consultant. What ended up airing were the bits and pieces they wanted to use. All of the things I discussed about the experiences I had been through in the system were completely cut out. So I was very disappointed. I didn't get to explain that the government based its case on absurd research and development software costs. And the show never addressed the question of why these companies didn't report their losses to the FCC, which is required by federal law.

Y-LIFE: If there's one thing you want people to know about you, what would it be?

MITNICK: I want to rehabilitate my reputation so that I'm not considered "notorious" anymore. But I don't know if I'll ever be able to change that. I've done wrong. I broke into computers. I recognize that, and I'm sorry for it. But I'm not agreeing that I committed the amount of harm I was accused of or that the punishment fit the crime. I deserved to be punished but not to have my rights as a U.S. citizen disregarded. If they can disregard Kevin Mitnick's rights, they can disregard yours. That's been my argument all along.



**'I want to
rehabilitate my
reputation so that
I'm not considered
"notorious" anymore.
But I don't know if
I'll ever be able to
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WHERE TO, HOW TO, BEST OF: OUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO LIFE ON THE WEB EDITED BY CREE McCREE



SPOOK HOUSE

Although Congress has yet to declare Halloween a national holiday, acting out our deepest fantasies by donning a mask is a proud American tradition. And the post-modern winks of *Scary Movie* notwithstanding, we still love to be terrified. As the witching hour nears, *Y-Life* haunts the Web for the spookiest sites of vampires, ghosts, and human masters of the macabre on **PAGE 150**.

CONTENTS

NEW, NOTABLE & FUN 148

This month's hot picks

ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS 150

Trendspotting: Shooting for Net TV Plus: Vampire Films, Horror Writers, Haunted Web

MONEY & SHOPPING 152

Money Matters: Investing for Free Plus: Halloweenery, Consumer Power, Investment Games

TRAVEL & RECREATION 154

Getaway Guru: Going the Extra Miles Plus: Golfing Guides, Cuba, Historic Sites

LIFESTYLE & COMMUNITY 156

The Home Front: Caregiving Resources Plus: Coffee Culture, Hometown Papers

LEARNING & CREATIVITY 158

Brain Waves: Reading Between the Lions Plus: Entomology, Foreign Languages

WEB USER 163

Stay on Top of Software Upgrades Plus: Connect Faster

GUEST GUIDE: Megaderth's Dave Mustaine,
PAGE 151

ESSENTIALS: Discount Coupons, PAGE 153

EXPERT OPINION: Laurie Cabot, Official Witch of Salem,
PAGE 161

New, Notable & Fun

WHAT'S HOT—AND WHAT'S COOL—ON THE WEB THIS MONTH

BY LISA KO

RELAUNCH

LATIMES.COM: CALENDAR

LIVE From the best newspaper in the West comes this insider's guide to Los Angeles and Southern California. Search articles and reviews for the best lodging, shops, restaurants, and events in the L.A. area. Oh, yeah—there's info on Hollywood too. [calendarlive.com]

EPITONIC This hub for downloading alternative music has expanded its offerings to include video as well as audio. Watch concert footage of your favorite indie bands, such as Fugazi and Sleater-Kinney, or see new music videos from Moby and Underworld. Quips president Aaron Newton: These are the “home movies of the family you wish you had.” [epitonic.com/video]

WARNER BROS. ONLINE The media kingdom's site features a fresh appearance and more menus, easing navigation via direct links to special topics under Music, Movies, Television, and Kids. The retooling also highlights the debut of slightly off-kilter, Web-only cartoons such as *The Oblongs*. [wb.com]

HOUSE & HOME

DIGSMAGAZINE.COM Call it *Martha Stewart Living* for hipsters. Editor Yee-Fan Sun serves up tips for swanky living for “quasi-adults” on a budget. Her smart, snappy pieces range from finger-food suggestions to how to repair thrift-store purchases and host your first dinner party. [digsmagazine.com]

ANTIMONY & LACE Whether you want to live like a goth or just look like one, this site covers concerns both basic (such as how to build your wardrobe) and advanced (such as how to care for fetish gear). Don't have the goods yet? Try your hand at the sewing patterns for bondage pants and circle cloaks. [\[threethirteen.net/lace\]](http://threethirteen.net/lace)

MISC. NEAT

ANGRYMAN.COM Don't get mad. Get angry! Everyone's entitled to a soapbox at this online sounding board, where you can vote and voice your opinion on topics such as cross-generational dating, the Starbucks proliferation, and Howard Stern's First Amendment rights. Vent now, and vent often—but there's no guarantee you'll actually be heard above the din. [angryman.com]

SAVE THEM GOLDFISH! You catch your evil roommate with his

PORTALPATROL

AOL.COM has improved its safety features with Official AOL Mail. Users of AOL versions 4.0 and 5.0 can now easily identify e-mail sent by AOL—official envelope, blue borders, and special seal—and thus help ward off spam and potentially harmful viruses.

Search engine users at **YAHOO!** [yahoo.com] may be noticing something different in their finds. The portal has beefed up its directory by trading long-time technology provider **INKTOMI** [www.inktomi.com] for upstart **GOOGLE** [google.com], known for its speed and high number of relevant returns. The result? More sites you can use, and fewer 404s.

This is why it's called the World Wide Web: **NETSPERANTO** [netsperanto.com] aggregates its eight community destinations for first- and second-generation Americans into one global village, with sections for students and for members of the Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Indian, Polish, Russian, and Vietnamese diasporas.

hand in the goldfish bowl and a skillet heating up on the stove. Your mission: to save your beloved pet from being turned into stir-fry. It starts out easy, but this animated game from online textbook store **ECAMPUS.COM** grows more frenzied as time wears on. Watch out, or you could get burned! [ecampus.com/arcade/goldfish.html]

SPOT LIGHT



E-Legal Redress

ANYONE WHO WATCHES DAYTIME TELEVISION HAS SEEN plenty of commercials for lawyers with 800-numbers. But why call a hot line when you can get free legal access online? Founded by former New York City mayor and *People's Court* judge Ed Koch, **THELAW.COM** offers informative articles and one-on-one real-time chats with attorneys. Self-help law center **NOLO.COM** is a one-stop resource for doing your own legal research. And Net library **FINDLAW** [findlaw.com] houses all the forms, statutes, and federal regulations you'll need. Seeking counsel? Search the directory at **LAWOFFICE.COM**. Or visit **ICOURTHOUSE** [i-courtthouse.com] and let a jury of your (unseen) peers decide your fate. They may find you guilty, but at least you won't have to endure a scolding from Judge Judy.

AMERICAN JUSTICE: Take the law into your own hands online.

MISSING LINK? SITES WE SUGGEST YOU SAMPLE TOGETHER**Poets Who Don't Know It**

WHAT DO FRIDA KAHLO AND LEONARDO DiCaprio have in common? Besides having a flair for the dramatic and a reputation for hard partying, both are the lucky subjects of online poetry. The editor of **KAHLO HAIKU** [consideritdone.cc/kahlo.html] posts the Mexican artist's paintings as inspiration for readers to submit their own 17-syllable masterpieces. A bizarre depiction of Kahlo's husband, artist Diego Rivera, as an infant spurred the following: "Baby diego / big and stinky like a man / I am freaking out."

CELEBRITY MUSES: Both Leonardo DiCaprio and Frida Kahlo have inspired surfers to wax poetic.

The fans of teen heartthrob DiCaprio, on the other hand, express their undying devotion and barely concealed lust through more-romantic dedications. At **LEONARDO DICAPRIO.NET: THE UNOFFICIAL POETRY SITE** [geocities.com/paris/parc/6560], you'll find such gems as, "Oh, Leonardo, I don't even know what to do / I think I'm falling in love with you."

As far as we know, Kahlo never considered penning verse herself. It is not, alas, too late for DiCaprio to play bard. He *did* play Romeo, after all.

EMODE If you're hooked on personality quizzes, you've come to the right place: What's your emotional age? Are you a slacker? What breed of dog are you? Are you sure you're you? Is he the one? Is it time to break up? Do you get enough sleep? Are you loony? Emode can tell you all this, and more. [www.emode.com]

IMAGES

THE FANTASTIC IN ART AND FICTION Learn about the role of the supernatural in classical art and literature by browsing this image bank from the Cornell Institute for Digital Collections. Showcases include Possession & Insanity; Freaks, Monsters & Prodigies; and a bestiary filled with griffins, dragons, and other magical creatures. [rmc2.library.cornell.edu/fantastic]

OBEY GIANT In 1989, art student Shepard Fairey embarked on a mission to make an icon of professional wrestler and sometime actor Andre the Giant (who died in 1993). Plastering public surfaces worldwide with "Obey Andre" stickers and posters, Andre's posse leaped to the height of countercultural fame. Read about the phenomenon and tour the gallery. [andrethegiant.com]

JOBS & CAREERS

WRITING FOR THE WEB Sites need content, and now is the time for writers to cash in on their talents. Here, experienced freelancer Emily A. Vander Veer shares her wisdom on how to strike out on your own, self-publish online, explore e-markets, and promote yourself. [emilyv.com]

WSJ.COM: CAREERJOURNAL For those who can't find their dream jobs in the classifieds, *The Wall Street Journal* introduces a career database for executives only. Search more than 30,000 top-level job openings, study salary data and profiles of recruiters, and ask for job-search advice and career-management strategies. [careerjournal.com]

KID STUFF

KIDCITY STICKER WORLD Around the corner from Sesame Street resides this new community from the Children's Television Workshop. Kids can create their own content, collect and swap funky e-stickers to earn points, and discover more about such luminaries as Susan B. Anthony and Marcus Garvey. [www.stickerworld.org]

PLANETPALS EARTHZONE

Earth Day shouldn't be limited to April. Earthman and his pals Breezy, Moonbeam, and Fluffy are on a crusade to clean up and educate. Youngsters can get free recycling kits, play games, and learn about the environment. [planetpals.com]

GOING ABROAD

IAGORA.COM "Internationals"—people traveling and living in multiple countries—are everywhere and nowhere at once. This lively hub eases the displacement and culture shock. Multilingual city and country guides, forums, and chat help nomads form a community away from home. [iagora.com]

IE PASSPORT: LIVING AND LEARNING ABROAD

Whether you're a college student thinking about next semester or a grown-up seeking an educational trip, check out this site. The Institute of International Education lists more than 5,000 travel-learning opportunities, from peace studies in Ireland to Maori poetry in New Zealand. [iepassport.org]

TICKETPLANET.COM Got a yen to play Phileas Fogg? This site specializes in around-the-world trip bargains, some less than \$1,300. [ticketplanet.com]



TREND SPOTTING BY BILGE EBIRI



Shooting for Net TV

NBA.com is getting more interactive on cable. Will players join the game?

AS THE NBA PREPARES FOR ITS 2000–2001 SEASON, expect some issues to begin heating up over sports-related content on the Web. Last season, **NBA.COM** actually had its own television channel. Available via some digital cable systems and DirecTV, NBA.com TV, which launched last November, was the first sports channel owned by a professional sports league. It broadcast everything from postgame interviews to candid footage of players, along with continuous game updates.

This time around, the league hopes to transform its fledgling undertaking into a broader, more interactive enterprise—and to profit from it through merchandise sales and licensing agreements. Last February, NBA commissioner David Stern told *Fortune* magazine that he wanted to make the NBA available worldwide through every wired means. “Whether the fight to get into the home is ultimately won by DSL or cable modem or wireless, the issue is content,” Stern said. “We think we have content.”

ABOVE: Shaquille O’Neal is hot on court and online.
RIGHT: Max Schreck in F.W. Murnau’s *Nosferatu*.

The value of that content has been decreasing steadily over the past couple of years for a number of reasons: the vacuum left after Michael Jordan’s retirement, diminished attendance at live events, and lower TV ratings. The trick is to make pro basketball, and everything associated with it, exciting again. And the league clearly thinks the Internet will be the key.

The potential snag, however, is that athletes are exerting more control over their online presence. Shaquille O’Neal, for instance, boasts the official **SHAQUILLE O’NEAL** [shaq.com] site at **CBS SPORTSLINE.COM** [sportsline.com], while other players, including Chris Webber, are represented by NBA.com competitor **ATHLETESDIRECT** [athletesdirect.com]. Will NBA stars let a league network call the shots? With so many players, there will no doubt be some fierce competition over who, if anyone, gets a piece of the pie.

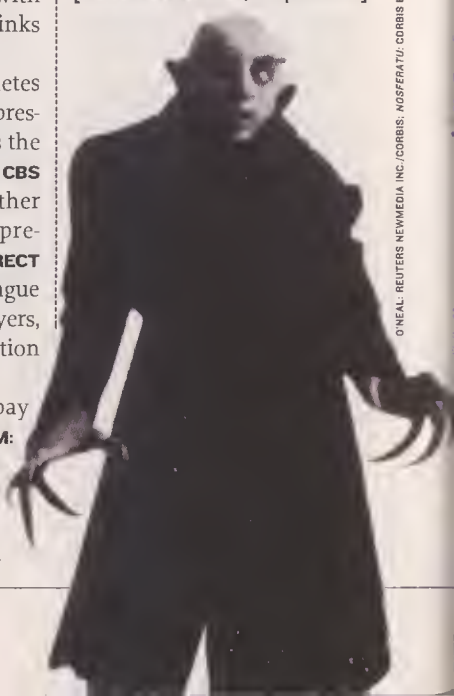
QUICK CLICK: You no longer need to pay to play at the popular **CBS SPORTSLINE.COM: FANTASY SPORTS** [sportsline.commissioner.com]. All the features are now free, including the Football Commissioner service, which lets you set up and run your own gridiron league.

MOVIES

Vampire Films

THE UR-UNDEAD Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau’s *Shadow of the Vampire*, the fictionalized film retelling of the original production of *Nosferatu*, has been moved from a fall to a yuletide release. Eager viewers may still learn plenty at this site devoted to the horror classic’s director, F.W. Murnau, who is considered by many cineasts to be the greatest figure of the silent era. Analysis of his early movies is written in German, but the bio section is in English. Here lies entombed a trove of large-screen stills, enough to satisfy any aficionado of the bald, looming vampire played by Max Schreck. [internettrash.com/users/murnau/murneng.htm]

BEST BATS Fangs for the Memories Undying fans of the undead doubtlessly have their own rat’s nest of favorite films. The newly bitten, however, can find guidance at Fangs, which offers Deep Dark Thoughts on some classics, from the original *Nosferatu* and the Bela Lugosi *Dracula* to the more recent *Near Dark* and George A. Romero’s *Martin*. The remains of the site are a gory, labyrinthine tribute to horror films of all blood types, from A to sub-C. It’s worth hours of surfing; just be sure to log off before sunrise. [houseofhorrors.com/vampires.htm]



O’NEAL: REUTERS/NEW MEDIA INC./CORBIS; NOSFERATU: CORBIS BETTMANN PHOTO CREDIT HERE



THE BLOODY HAMMER
Hammerweb: The Official Website of Hammer Film Productions Limited Many horror film buffs swear that no studio put monsters and mayhem on-screen better than Hammer, which transformed such standards as the legends of Dracula and Frankenstein into ongoing sagas laced with a daring mixture of the violent and the erotic. The site takes a proud look at more than five decades of cleavers and cleavage. [hammerfilms.com]

MIDNIGHT MADNESS
Count Gore De Vol Presents Creature Feature Throughout the '70s and '80s, Count Gore De Vol (Dick Dyszel in another life) donned his tux, cape, and plenty of greasepaint to bring the D.C. area horror flicks on Saturday nights. Now, most every Saturday at midnight, he presents a Web version of his Creature Feature. Check the Dungeon for ever-changing content, including video clips of his on-air antics, original interviews with the horror and sci-fi community, and bizarre links galore. He signs you out with his eternal blessing: "May your blood be varm!" [countgore.com]

—DONALD MILLER

BOOKS

Horror Writers

THE KING The Official Stephen King Web Presence Don't expect a lot of fresh insight into the world's most successful author at his closely guarded domain, where

the Rumors are mostly quashed and the Past is a lengthy list of his books, movies, and TV shows. What you can glean, for \$1 a pop, are installments of *The Plant*, an epistolary novel that King likens to *Christine*. Installments will keep rolling out as long as fans keep their end of the bargain. "No stealing from the blind newsboy!" warns King. The mere thought of the author of *Cujo* and *Carrie* coming after miscreants at la Metallica is enough to give us nightmares. [stephenking.com]

THE DEAN Dean Koontz: The Official Web Site Another hugely successful horror-meister,

Dean Koontz, reveals almost too much at his official site. Along with reading excerpts from his latest novels, you can learn how Koontz's wife dealt with his obsessive writing habits: "Gerda discovered that rapping me hard on the knuckles with a spoon was as effective as jabbing me with a fork—although once in a while she had to whack me in the center of the forehead." [randomhouse.com/features/koontz]

BLOOD BROTHER Lost Souls: Clive Barker's Official Web Site Bloody Brit Clive Barker gives center stage to his devotees, who submit wacky fan art and "terrific" stories. Under Visions, take a gander at some of Barker's very sexual and surreal paintings and drawings, and read his confessions as told to the Lost Souls staff. [clivebarker.com]

—PAMELA DES BARRES

THE PARANORMAL

Haunted Web

GHOSTS R US The Shadowlands: Ghosts & Hauntings The Shadowlord (aka Dave Juliano) serves up a spectral smorgasbord.

Take a crash course in Ghost Hunting 101, browse more than 1,700 "true ghost stories" submitted by readers, or send your favorite local haunt to Haunted Places Index. The site includes hundreds of photos, as well as video and sound files from Dave's own investigations: He has shared his house with ghosts for 29 years. *Brrrrr.* [theshadowlands.net/ghost]

SPIRIT CAMS The Ghost-Watcher Since 1993, Manhattan resident June Houston has lived with frightening sounds: footsteps, scratching, muffled shouts, howling, and a deep voice uttering strange words. Visitors view live images from Web cams placed in strategic trouble spots and submit reports of unusual sightings. Judging from what's been seen, Houston has more than cockroaches to worry about. [ghostwatcher.com]

CAUGHT ON FILM Ghost-Study.com Say "cheese!" Ghosts show up in the most unusual places—barbecues, birthday parties, holiday celebrations: Any photo-op will do. Examine more than 400 spooky photos submitted by ordinary Netizens. [ghoststudy.com]

—HEIDI LAFLECHE

GUEST GUIDE BY KEVIN DELANEY

Megadeth's Dave Mustaine

Don't mistake Dave Mustaine for your typical guitar-wielding rocker: He's also a high-powered CEO earning a business degree. In addition to being Megadeth's ferocious front man, he oversees the operations of **FULLCONCEPT**

[fullconcept.com], a site where up-and-coming bands can get exposure in cyberspace. Mustaine says he prefers living at a breakneck pace, but he takes time every now and then to visit his favorite spots on the Web:

MAJORLEAGUEBASEBALL.COM Mustaine has some testosterone-driven music that sits well with professional athletes, and I have a lot of friends who are players. It's hard to get sports information when you're on tour in Japan, but this site made it easy to keep up with the home-run derby between McGwire and Sosa last year. [majorleaguebaseball.com]

NHL.COM I love NHL.com just about every day during the

season for stats and standings. Last year, in Japan, being able to listen to the play-offs online was fascinating. [nhl.com]

PBS KIDS I want to make sure that my children get quality educational shows, and there's a lot of stuff on some of the networks that I don't like. The PBS site has been especially helpful with my two-year-old. I like to print out coloring-book pages for her to draw on. [pbs.org/kids]



YAHOO! While working on my business degree in the past couple years, I've used Yahoo! to do research for term papers. It's the only search engine I'll use—until, of course, FullConcept gets its own search engine. [yahoo.com]

HAUNTED HOUSE: IMAGE BANK; MUSTAINE: MITCH GERBER/CORBIS

MONEY MATTERS BY DEAN FOUST



Investing for Free

Some online brokers don't charge a commission. But are they a bargain?

FREE INTERNET ACCESS, FREE SOFTWARE downloads, free long-distance calls. Now you can add stock trades to the lengthy list of free goods and services available on the Net. In recent months, a number of cyber-brokers, including **THEFINANCIALCAFE.COM**, **FREETRADE.COM**, and **THEINVESTOR'S ADVOCATE @ FREETRADEZ.COM** [freetradez.com], have launched services that let investors buy and sell stocks sans commission.

How do they do it? Simple: They skimp on content and provide less of the news, research, and other services that investors demand from online brokers (though the Financial Cafe's offerings are the most respectable of the lot). And even the trades themselves are bare-bones: At Freetrade you indeed get free trades, but only when you accept the prevailing market price. The site charges \$5 per trade to execute stop orders, which let investors hold out for a specific price. To save on support costs, Freetrade also requires that all communication be by e-mail, which means that it may take a day or more to get your question answered or your problem resolved. The Investor's Advocate, which had just

launched at press time, hopes to challenge the Freetrade model by being "truly commission-free" and plans to keep its costs low by subsidizing its service with advertising.

No matter which of the upstarts you choose, some experts question whether you'll get your trades executed as efficiently—and as cheaply—at the new bargain-basement outfits as you would at established brokers. Let's say one of the new commission-free sites fills your order for 100 shares of Dell at \$47½ per share. If a commission-charging brokerage is able to obtain the same shares for its customers at \$47, then you overpaid by \$19—more than wiping out any potential savings.

"If all you want is bare-bones trading, it might make sense," says Jaime Punishill, a financial services analyst at Forrester Research. "But if you only make three or four trades a year and want some service, is the difference between \$0 and \$7 a trade really worth it?"

SHOPPING

Halloweenery

COSTUME CENTRAL

Halloween Mart It's that time of year again, when the average sedate citizen can transform into Austin Powers (\$65), Gene Simmons of KISS (\$230), Sylvester or Tweety (\$40), a headless ghoul (\$65), or a Chinese take-out carton (\$44)—without receiving so much as a glance. At Halloween Mart, the costume category is rife with possibilities: action heroes; clowns; geisha and samurai; TV, music, and movie stars; vampires; witches and devils; doctors and nurses; and more. Turn your baby into a ladybug (\$13) and dress your doggy up like a bride (\$20). Lovebirds can click on Food and Drink and go in tandem as a hot dog and bun or companion ketchup and mustard bottles. [halloweenmart.com]

RETRO JACK-O'-LANTERNS Spookshows.com

This site is devoted to five-and-dime staples of Halloween's past, such as paper trick-or-treat bags, which are now pricey collectibles. Although the site turns up its nose at most reproductions, it does give props to artist Denise Baxter Hermery, whose papier-mâché jack-o'-lanterns look pretty darn authentic. Click on Spot the Repro and guess which of three grinning pumpkins has been created by Hermery—not an easy task. Cats and pumpkin heads are available in orange or



ILLUSTRATION: JONNY MENDELSON. JACK-O'-LANTERN: COURTESY SPOOKSHOWS.COM



TALENT BROKERS: Get in the game at the Hollywood Stock Exchange.

black, large or small, at prices that range from \$9.50 to \$38. For an extra dollar, Hermery will even add some scuff marks for an out-of-the-attic look. [spookshows.com]

FAB FREEBIES Vintage Halloween Masks From the pages of *Retro* magazine comes this terrific selection of free masks from the 1930s. Choose from nine brightly colored visages, including those of Little Orphan Annie, Cleopatra, a black cat with a maniacal grin, and a starlet who resembles Lucille Ball in her heyday. Simply download the image, print it out, mount it on cardboard, and head into the moonlight. [www.retroactive.com/sept97/hawmasks.html] —PAMELA DES BARRES

Consumer Power

WHERE TO START Consumer World With commerce (electronic and otherwise) growing at such a rapid pace, buyers need to be more careful than ever. This portal is geared toward making it easier for emporers to caveat. It's a gateway to product-review sites, legal help, and many other resources that will give you information and help you trim your bills. The huge number of links can be daunting, but the most useful are tagged with a Best Bet icon. [consumerworld.org]

CONSUMER CHAMPIONS Fight Back! Clarkhoward.com Customer service department giving you the runaround? Fill out the

Write Back! form at Fight Back!; David Horowitz will fire off a letter to the offending company and keep the spending public apprised of the results. Clark Howard's site, a companion to his daily radio show, has a collection of financial calculators to help you figure out credit card interest, taxes, and, of course, how long you'll have to save to become a millionaire. [fightback.com]; [clarkhoward.com]

IN THE KNOW Consumer Reports Online Four bucks gets you a month's access to the past four years of the print magazine's product ratings and reviews—a good deal that could save you a good deal of cash in the long run. Die-hard cheapskates can still enjoy many free articles and other features, including product-safety alerts and recalls. [consumerreports.org]

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH The Better Business Bureau Want to get the dirt on that mechanic who always seems to find a way to squeeze more money out of you? Request a full report by filling out a form on the BBB site. You can also get the lowdown on nearly 200 charities here. [bbb.org]

GRIPES CENTRAL eComplaints.com It used to be that if you got lousy service or a rotten deal, the best you could do was tell everyone you knew. Thanks to the Net, you can still share those beefs with all your friends—and a few million other people as well. Before you buy, fly, eat, sleep, or visit, check

this archive of gripes to see what you might be getting yourself into. [ecomplaints.com] —KEVIN DELANEY

STOCK MARKET

Investment Games

BEST ACTION The Hedge-Hog Investment Challenge; The Internet Stock Challenge Whether you're a novice investor looking to practice without risking real money or a trading whiz who likes to play to an audience, Hedge-Hog runs the best investing contest on the Net. While similar games just allow you to trade stocks, HedgeHog also lets you trade options, sell short, or trade on margin—anything to boost your chances of winning the \$1,000 grand prize, which is awarded every six weeks. And if crowds make you claustrophobic, the site also lets you stage a private competition among your friends. If you prefer the high-risk action of the dot-com sector, the Internet Stock Challenge limits the playing field to the 284 publicly traded Net stocks. Best score each month wins \$1,500. But you had better bring your A-game: June's winner netted a 66.05 percent one-month return. [www.investorfactory.com/hedge-hog]; [stockchallenge.internet.com]

TEEN TRADES MainXchange Hey, kids! Are you tired of listening to dear old Dad brag about the killing he made in Amazon.com shares? You should click over to MainXchange, a stock-trading simulation game that lets you earn goodies, such as gift certificates for major retailers, based on your market prowess. After you download it, MainXchange gives you 100,000 virtual dollars—or "BuX"—to invest in publicly traded companies. Players then vie to earn Xstars, which can be exchanged for prizes or used to bid against other players at a MainX Auction. [mainxchange.com]

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MG Financial Group Demo Contest Got a yen to make your mark? Run by a leading currency brokerage, this contest challenges you to

wheel and deal in euros, British sterling, Swiss francs, or Japanese yen. For \$40 per month you can have a simulated account that allows you to learn how to trade like the pros. The best performer each month wins a credit of \$1,000 in a real-world trading account. [mgforex.com/demo/default.asp?loc=DemoContest]

NAME GAME HSX.com; Wall Street Sports Gimme \$5,000 on Dennis Miller! Sell IO Britney Spears! Hollywood Stock Exchange (HSX) crosses America's two passions—the stock market and celebrity worship—to let participants trade hundreds of actors, movies, and musicians as if they were stocks. Become a top performer and you can redeem your points for videos and other prizes. If sports is more your bag, Wall Street Sports offers the same chance to buy and sell pro athletes. [hsx.com]; [wallstreetsports.com]

—DEAN FOUST

ESSENTIALS

DISCOUNT COUPONS

BIGCOUPONS.COM

[bigcoupons.com]

Visit this coupon portal to find discounts in categories ranging from restaurants to rental cars.

VAL-PAK

[valpak.com]

Remember those thick coupon booklets delivered via snail mail? Now you can enter your ZIP code and search online for savings at local businesses.

VALUPAGE

[www.valupage.com]

Customize your own Valupage, and print out coupons to bring to your supermarket. No clipping necessary.

GENERAL SHOPPER'S GUIDE

[www.3.ewebcity.com/power/combo.htm]

Features new deals daily, at top online stores including Amazon.com and Pets.com.

GETAWAY GURU

BY SUSAN BRESLOW SARDONE



Going the Extra Miles

Pie in the sky? Click smart to earn free upgrades and other goodies

IF YOU TRAVEL AT ALL, IT MAKES SENSE TO accumulate frequent-flier points. Sooner or later those miles will add up. Maybe you're itching for a free first-class trip around the world. If not that, how about a discount on your next coach fare to Detroit? ■ One way to earn miles effortlessly is to book online. America West, American, Northwest, Southwest, TWA, United, and US Airways grant bonuses to Web buyers. But even if you collect enough miles, you may not be able to go the distance when you want to. Most airlines reserve only 10 percent of seats for customers using mileage awards, so redemption headaches can cloud the experience.

To fly smart, use the Web to maximize your benefits and suss out the real deals. Start at **WEBFLYER** [webflyer.com]. Especially helpful are its Program Comparison Chart, which ranks airlines side by side, and NotiFlyer, which posts current awards offerings.

Voted on by airline passengers, **THE FREDDIE AWARDS** [freddieawards.com] recognize top frequent-travel programs: **SOUTHWEST AIRLINES RAPID REWARDS** [southwestairlines.com/rapid_rewards], for instance, gives double credit

for booking online and allows members to fly free faster than any other program.

BIZTRAVEL.COM helps its online ticket buyers achieve the holy grail of flying: free upgrades. If one becomes available, the site will automatically nab it and send you an e-mail to confirm.

Savvy consumers earn many of their miles from nonflight activities such as hotel stays and credit card use. Newcomer **WEBMILES** [webmiles.com] claims its customers can apply points earned on the site toward mileage credits on any airline and any flight (no blackout dates). Earn points by buying from WebMiles' online partners—which include Nordstrom.com, Borders.com, and Marthastewart.com—and by using the WebMiles credit card.

The tastiest mileage deal may be the Diners Club Card. You can apply for it online at **EYEONCREDIT** [eyeoncredit.com/dinersApply.html]. Pay the \$80 annual fee, use the card at least once a month during the first year, and you'll earn 1,000 miles per month, up to a total of 12,000 miles—plus one mile for every dollar charged—transferable toward every major U.S. program.

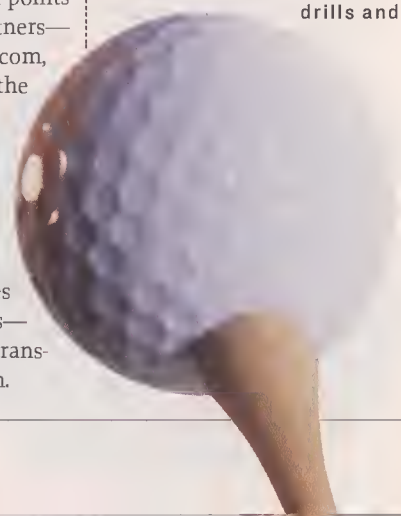
OUTDOORS

Golfing Guides

COURSE LEADER Golf-Online As scientists decode the intricate mysteries of the human genome, we may finally understand man's compulsive need to chase down small white balls and hit them great distances with sticks. In the meantime, golf aficionados can study player bios and articles on the nuances of putting. Closely linked with ESPN.com's excellent golfing site, the online version of *Golf Magazine* is packed with stats and updates on the pros. It also provides video tips from top teachers and an Interactive Golf Academy that offers private lessons. Stop by the ProShop for clubs, books, software, prints, videos, DVDs, and classifieds. [golfonline.com]

TRAVELING COMPANION Golf.com Golf news, personalities, and comprehensively covered professional tournaments headline this magazine-style site, where "golf rage" is a hot topic on the message boards. Looking for a links vacation? The outstanding Travel & Courses page provides access to more than 16,000 public, private, military, and resort courses throughout the U.S., as well as Hot Deals at resorts around the world. [golf.com]

EXPERT ADVICE Golf Link Amateurs will find Tom Ward's extensive *Golf for Beginners* to be a virtual clinic on the game. The PGA instructor provides tutorials and detailed lessons, such as "Five Basic Body Actions," along with drills and



ILLUSTRATION, NOAH WOODS



AMERICAN HERITAGE: Are you a history buff? Plan your next tour online.

streaming-video demonstrations. For a better grip on the Mind Game, pay a visit to links psychologist Bob Phillips, who addresses mental conundrums such as "To Grind or Not to Grind" in the Golf Tips section. [golfink.com]

COURSE REVIEWS PGA-Tour.com and Golf Web The real treasure here is the monster Course Guide database. Read how others rate local links and submit your own review, or browse the editors' picks for the Top 100 courses in the U.S. and worldwide. Visit Golf Club Trader for good deals on used equipment; ladies and lefties rate their own separate exchanges. [golfweb.com]

DUFFER'S DELIGHT Bad Golf Monthly.com Just as Sisyphus struggled to improve the lie of his ball, so amateur golfers work endlessly to overcome their handicap and low self-esteem. Shankers, hackers, and incorrigible slicers will find much-needed humor and support at "the site for the golfer who really sucks!" [badgolfmonthly.com]

—CARL FRANZ, LORENA HAVENS

DESTINATIONS

Cuba

UNOFFICIAL TRIPS Cuba Scared of bureaucracy? Can't get an exit visa? Canadian-based Cuban Adventures books flights departing from Canada and Mexico

and offers an array of vacation packages, from scuba diving trips to cigar tours. Escorted outings can be customized for parties as small as two. But remember: Although tourists are rarely prosecuted, traveling to Cuba without U.S. government permission is technically illegal for American citizens. If you do decide to go the backdoor route, don't forget to ask Cuban customs: *No estampe el pasaporte, por favor.* [cubanadventures.com]

OFFICIAL TRIPS Cuba Tours Network About a third of Cuba's approximately 100,000 visitors from the U.S. in 1999 went there legally. That's thanks to simplified exit-visa requirements, which allow students, artists, and athletes, as well as doctors and other professionals, to travel to Cuba on direct flights from New York City and Miami. Officially authorized to organize such visits, Cuba Tours Network also arranges accommodations. Need a good reason to go? Check the site's schedule of conferences and events being held in Havana and elsewhere on the island. [cubatoursnet.org]

THE PARTY LINE Cuba: Consular Information Sheet This no-frills site produced by the U.S. State Department provides links and phone numbers for official health, visa, and currency information, along with the government's spin on U.S.-Cuba relations. [travel.state.gov/cuba.html]

ON WHEELS Cuba: Travel, Bibliography, History, People-to-People Programs With its tours throughout Cuba for all levels of cyclists, the International Bicycle Fund tackles the politics of tourism by offering a blend of ecofriendly transport and cultural exploration. [ibike.org/bikecuba]

CULTURAL HERITAGE AfroCubaWeb Learn about the cultural contributions of Afro-Cuban people and access information about workshops, tours, and festivals worldwide. The Traveling to Cuba section tracks changes in official policy and how they may affect you, and provides links to Cuban and U.S. government sites. [afrocubaweb.com] —TIA KEENAN

SPECIALTY TRAVEL

Historic Sites

TUNE IN History Channel Traveler Affiliated with the cable TV network, this guide to places and events that celebrate bygone days is a vital resource for vacationers interested in heritage tourism. The site lets visitors search for historic grounds by state or region, then returns information on hours of operation, admission fees, and even specialized itineraries. There's something for everyone, from book lovers to Civil War devotees to automotive buffs. [historytraveler.com]

EARLY AMERICAN Colonial Williamsburg A virtual field trip to the world's largest outdoor living-history museum, this official site helps users plan a real-world visit to Williamsburg, Virginia, located about 150 miles south of Washington, D.C. The shops, taverns, and government buildings where colonists dined, gossiped, and conducted business are depicted online, along with modern-day facilities. An interactive Itinerary Builder points out significant spots within the 173-acre historic area. [history.org]

HIKE THROUGH HISTORY NPS: Links to the Past Your tax dollars at work, ParkNet provides information on eminent

personalities, places, and more from America's early days. Its best section: National Register Travel Itineraries, a collection of minisites that may help you plan a trip centered on a historical theme or location. [www.cr.nps.gov/colherit.htm]

UNWIND IN STYLE Historic Hotels of America To prevent culture shock after exploring our country's past, avoid the chain motels and reserve a room in one of the Historic Hotels of America. Sprinkled throughout 40 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico, the group's 145 properties range from small-town inns to city-center edifices, and are distinguished by their architecture and history. Search for lodging by location and, in many instances, book your stay on the site. Also check for special seasonal packages from individual HHA members, all of which belong to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. [nthp.org/main/hotels/hotelsmain.htm]

—SUSAN BRESLOW SARDONE

ESSENTIALS

DESTINATION GUIDES

FODORS.COM
[fodors.com]

Customize a miniguide for your destination that includes sight-seeing, dining, or lodging reviews.

ARTHUR FROMMER'S BUDGET TRAVEL ONLINE
[frommers.com]

Get industry deals and ideas for offbeat vacations.

ABOUT: TRAVEL
[home.about.com/travel]
Hundreds of guides cover all corners of the world. E-mail an expert for a personal reply.

ROUGH GUIDE TRAVEL
[travel.roughguides.com]
More than 14,000 stops off the beaten path, plus tips on how to rough it—smoothly.

TIMEOUT.COM: THE WORLD'S LIVING GUIDE
[www.timeout.com]
Find what's hot in more than 30 major cities worldwide.

THE HOME FRONT BY CHRISTY EPSTEIN



Caregiving Resources

Raising kids while you parent your parents

THE BABY BOOMERS HAVE HIT THEIR FIFTIES AND ACQUIRED YET another moniker: the Sandwich Generation. The name refers to the phenomenon of the growing number of adults caring for elderly parents and dependent children at the same time. The demands of the commitment can cause a great deal of financial and emotional stress, and **CAREGUIDE.COM** helps take the guesswork out of the process. You can search by state for both elder care and child care providers; the site offers advice on everything from estate planning to hiring a nanny. Additional help comes through the site's partnerships with **SENIOR.COM** and **PARENT SOUP** [www.parentsoup.com], as well as nonprofits such as the **ASSISTED LIVING FEDERATION OF AMERICA** [www.alfa.org].

Caring for older people with long-term health problems while also seeing to the day-to-day needs of young children requires not just stamina but a set of specialized skills. To help you navigate new terrain, CareGuide publishes newsletters geared to both elders and youngsters. It also addresses specific concerns by sending customized e-mails and hosting numerous support groups. Having recently lost a relative to Alzheimer's, I visited the forum and received several insightful responses to difficult questions, such as whether to tell a family member that he or she has the debilitating disease.

At a time of reaction against dot-com commercialism, sites such as CareGuide serve as a reminder of what the Web is about for many of us: creating communities and freely exchanging information that can make a difference.

FOOD & DRINK

Coffee Culture

JAVA SCHOOL Coffee Review Before you order La Berlina Estate Horqueta or another specialty blend from the online store, study the equipment reviews and brewing techniques for espresso, drip, and French press. The curriculum at the Coffee College includes instruction in the delicate art of "cupping." [coffeereview.com]

AROMA THERAPY SmellTheCoffee.com If you're looking for animated conversation, there's good company in the Perfect Cup and other forums. Serious but friendly discussions range from home-roasting your beans to the pros and cons of adding condensed milk. [smellthecoffee.com]

GREEN BEANS Fair Trade Coffee Campaign You can have your cup and enjoy it guilt-free by buying shade-grown coffee from small, independent growers and certified retailers. Locate fair-trade vendors, or get involved in grass-roots activism. [globalexchange.org/economy/coffee]

CAFFEINE BUZZ Too Much Coffee Man Check here for truly loopy, caffeinated humor: cartoons, icons, desktop pictures, animations, a screen saver, and even an MP3 song. [tmcm.com]

—CARL FRANZ, LORENA HAVENS

COMMUNITY

Hometown Papers

LINKS CENTRAL AJR NewsLink The American Journalism Review maintains this online nexus of more than 3,400 U.S. papers. Information junkies can also access more than 2,000 foreign rags, making it a short hop from Iowa's *Oskaloosa Herald* to the *Okinawa Times*. [ajr.newslink.org/news.html]

GEEK CENTRAL Mercury Center Among the first papers to go digital, the *San Jose Mercury News* features extensive, no-cost coverage of local, state, and world news at its online hub. Mercury Center is ground zero for tracking the high-tech sector, and it laces in-depth reportage with the latest gossip from Silicon Valley's cubicles and coffeehouses. Visit the archives to call up headlines from nearly every article published since 1985. [mercurycenter.com]

FREAK CENTRAL Boulevards; The Village Voice These days, every big city has an alternative weekly that caters to underground culture. Boulevards acts as an intersection for dozens of such papers around the country—including *The Village Voice*, the granddaddy of them all. The digital version delivers all the contents of the print edition, including its trademark investigations of Big Apple politics, plus searchable archives and Web-exclusive features. [boulevards.com]; [villagevoice.com]

PARTY CENTRAL NOLA Live The online hub for New Orleans' *Times-Picayune* offers much more than up-to-the-minute local, state, and world news coverage—though you will find that here. Take a peek at Bourbon Street through one of NOLA's many Web cams, or sound off on topics ranging from the New Orleans Saints to the state of education in Louisiana. Add to the mix live coverage of Mardi Gras and Jazzfest, a New Orleans visitor's guide, and events calendars, and it's almost as much fun as being there. [nola.com]

—ALEXIS ADAMS



If Spunk were medicine, Harley wouldn't need your help.

Journey of Hope



RONALD McDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES

ViewSonic applauds Ronald McDonald House Charities® and their humanitarian mission. And we're joining them. Throughout the year, the ViewSonic hot-air balloon will travel across the United States and Canada as part of a program we call the Journey of Hope. Joined by a generous group of special partners, we are working toward the goal of raising awareness, visibility, support—and most importantly—funding to assist the Ronald McDonald House Charities® in helping children and families in need.

It's the kind of thing good neighbors and good corporate citizens must do. We need your support and your donations. Remember, your help keeps hope alive for these amazing kids.

Please visit: www.journeyofhope.com for more information about the Journey of Hope and how you can make a donation.

We are proud to present our Journey of Hope Partners:

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AAVACATIONS
America's Airtime
www.aavacations.com

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www.aol.com

**ViewSonic
on top**
www.ViewSonic.com



BRAIN WAVES BY KEVIN DELANEY



Reading Between the Lions

A new educational show's Web site is PBS Kids' mane attraction

THEO AND CLEO ARE BIG CATS ON A MISSION to help kids learn to read. As the stars of PBS Kids' *Between the Lions*, they preside over a daily romp through stories, songs, and the often intimidating subject of phonics. The TV series, which premiered in April, is aimed at 4- to 7-year-old graduates of *Sesame Street* who have mastered the alphabet and are ready to start putting letters together into words. Appropriately, many of the brains behind the program are *Sesame* veterans, including creative director Michael Frith, the longtime producer of *Jim Henson's Muppet Babies*.

One of the show's goals is to unite nuts-and-bolts phonics with the more organic "whole language" approach to reading—two opposing camps that, Frith says, "have been at each other's throats for years." Turning lessons into lively fun isn't easy. But the shaggy-maned puppets are up to the challenge, with help from friends such as Sam Spud (a parboiled detective), country-music crooner Tammy Lionette, and even a few

humans, including Dr. Ruth Wordheimer (played by the real-life Dr. Ruth).

If much of the humor seems geared toward grown-ups, that's intentional, Frith says. Numerous studies have established that children learn more from educational TV when an adult watches with them. The companion Web site, **BETWEEN THE LIONS** [www.betweenthelions.com], takes that concept a step further by offering ways for kids and parents to interact.

Most of the online activities come in Shock-wave and printable versions. There's Gawain's Word, in which jousting knights clash to form words, and Alphabet Soup, where the goal is to unscramble a word in a joke. At each stop, explorer Cliff Hanger appears with tips—called Cliff's Notes—to help youngsters get the most from the material. The Parents' Survival Manual is full of suggestions for turning everyday events into reading experiences. There's even a "You Make Me Proud" certificate to print in honor of a job well done. With Theo and Cleo—and caring adults—as their guides, kids stand a good chance of papering the refrigerator with such emblems of esteem.

ABOVE: The beastly cast of *Between the Lions*.
RIGHT: The Web's abuzz with bug sites.

NATURAL SCIENCE

Entomology

BUG BYTES **The Wonderful World of Insects** More than a million species of insects swarm the planet, and this large and easy-to-use site covers many of them, from the giant Acteon beetle to the tiny fairy fly. You'll find pages on insect anatomy, taxonomy, and evolution; a glossary of entomological terms; instructions for keeping bugs as pets; and an introduction to the vast variety of insect species—all heavily infested with links. [earthlife.net/insects]

HOT SHOTS **Bugbios: Shameless Promotion of Insect Appreciation** An entomophile's delight, Dexter Sear's site features stunning macrophotographs of select species and a database of articles about insects in mythology, religion, art, and everyday life. You'll bug out at the inspiration provided by the world's humblest creatures, from Egyptian scarab designs and cricket cages in ancient Greece to *The Butterfly Alphabet*, by photographer Kjell B. Sandved. [bugbios.com]

METAMORPHOSIS **USGS: Butterflies of North America** This online project of the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center is as instructive as having a lepidopterist with you in the garden. Enthusiasts of Earth's most beautiful bugs will find numerous tools to identify the butterflies in their own backyards, including



PUPPETS: JOHN E. BARRETT

pictures of the caterpillar and the adult, notes on physical characteristics and flight patterns, and distribution maps showing which parts of the country particular species inhabit. [www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/lepid/bflyusa/bflyusa.htm]

PRAYING MANIAC Man-tropolis: A Mothership for the Mantophile There are almost as many Web sites devoted to specific bugs as there are species of insects, but this playful shrine to the sneaky praying mantis flies ahead of the swarm with its exceptional graphics. As you prey upon its pages—consuming facts about the mantis of the month, watching streaming animations, or maniacally snickering at cartoons—ghostly images of the grabby green beasts appear on the screen as stealthily as a real mantis might creep up on an aphid. [home5.inet.tele.dk/crypto]

THE BUZZ Insect Sound World: Songs of Crickets and Katydids from Japan Caged crickets are still commonly kept as pets in Japan, so it is there that we turn for the best collection of insect choruses and symphonies. In addition to sampling the songs of diverse species, the site documents variations caused by factors such as tem-

languages as well as those less familiar. Teachers, students, and autodidacts will appreciate the wide range of resources, including newsgroups, Internet editions of foreign-language newspapers and dictionaries, and other online learning aids. If you prefer traditional study materials, Learning Foreign Languages Online has an excellent catalog of tapes, books, flash cards, software, and videos, as well as links to Web tutorials. [info.ox.ac.uk/departments/langcentre]; [www.edgamesandart.com/foreignlanguages.html]

COURTESY COUNTS Jennifer's Language Page As the *Voyager* spacecraft so aptly demonstrated when it sent Bengali salutations to the universe, you can't go wrong with a simple, polite greeting. Learn *hello* in Swahili and Mohawk, *please* in Esperanto, and similar courtesies in more than 485 tongues. Looking for a Native American song or an Arabic font? Excellent links lead to foreign-language music, software, literature, and vocabulary lists. [elite.net/-runner/jennifers]

EVERYDAY URDU Foreign Languages for Travelers When in doubt, keep it simple: *Eat. Drink. Catch bus—where?* Marco Polo



would have appreciated this multilingual dictionary of essential travel phrases for shopping, dining, and asking directions. The searchable site, with entries in more than 70 languages, also offers help with pronunciation and basic grammar. [travlang.com/languages]

LOOK IT UP Your Dictionary.com Translate virtually any word into some of this site's 200-plus languages; then choose

from an extensive index of online dictionaries and thesauri, lists of slang terms, and other aids. You can fine-tune your searches by using specialty dictionaries. [yourdictionary.com]

BEYOND WORDS Hand-Speak This frequently updated dictionary of sign language has nearly 3,000 signs, including those for many colors, numbers, animals, and places. [handspeak.com]

—CARL FRANZ, LORENA HAVENS

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body is a form of divination—telling the future and the past. A lot of witches make a living doing psychic counseling. We have an advisor. [saletarot.com]

BRAIN WAVES BY KEVIN DELANEY



Reading Between the Lions

A new educational show's Web site is PBS Kids' mane attraction

THEO AND CLEO ARE BIG CATS ON A MISSION to help kids learn to read. As the stars of PBS Kids' *Reading Between the Lions*, the duo appear over a daily 30-minute show, teaching phonics and the often-forgotten art of reading. The show, which premiered in April, is aimed at children ages 3 to 5.

Characters like the two lions, who read words like "alphabet" and are read to by a woman named Mrs. MacKenzie, are brought together into words and sentences by the show's creators, including creative producer and executive producer.

One of the show's strengths is its "language approach," which uses simple words and sounds that, Frith says, "are the building blocks of language." Frith says that, "It's not easy. But the fun isn't easy. But the challenge is up to the challenge as Sam Spud (a pa music crooner Tamara Faye).

humans, including Dr. Ruth Wordheimer (played by the real-life Dr. Ruth).

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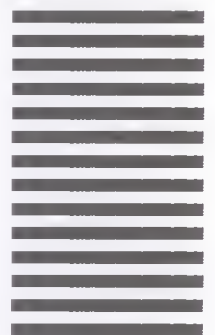
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—FRANK GREEN

CONTINUING ED

Foreign Languages

WHERE TO START Oxford University Language Centre; Learning Foreign Languages Online It may be the lingua franca of international commerce, cybercafés, and the lobbies of five-star hotels, but English is just one language among thousands. In most countries, people genuinely appreciate even the most basic efforts to converse in their native tongue. You can begin your online studies with Oxford's links to mini-lessons in major

languages as well as those less familiar. Teachers, students, and autodidacts will appreciate the wide range of resources, including newsgroups, Internet editions of foreign-language newspapers and dictionaries, and other online learning aids. If you prefer traditional study materials, Learning Foreign Languages Online has an excellent catalog of tapes, books, flash cards, software, and videos, as well as links to Web tutorials. [info.ox.ac.uk/departments/langcentre]; [www.edgamesandart.com/foreignlanguages.html]

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This frequently updated dictionary of sign language has nearly 3,000 signs, including those for many colors, numbers, animals, and places. [handspeak.com]

—CARL FRANZ, LORENA HAVENS

EXPERT OPINION BY HEIDI LAFLECHE

Laurie Cabot, Official Witch of Salem

Through the power of the Web, Laurie Cabot hopes to spread the word that witches aren't broom-riding brides of Satan. LAURIECABOT.COM

serves as a source of information and a place to buy wares. Off the Web, Cabot teaches classes on Celtic mythology, uses her psychic abilities to assist the police, and is writing a book on the magic of cats. This Halloween, she and a few hundred witches will celebrate the witches' New Year.

Samlain, with a magic circle "to commemorate people who died for our freedom." Here Cabot reveals her favorite online haunts:

THE WITCHES' LEAGUE FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS Most people don't know that we are a recognized religion in America. We are like Native American and Celtic cultures: interesting and good. We have nothing to do with Satan or evil. To be well educated about what witchcraft is and is not, you need to

go to the source. And the league is the source. [celticcrow.com]

SALEM WITCH MUSEUM 1692 The history of Salem, Massachusetts, is the culmination of what misinformation can do to incite people who are not educated. It's like McCarthyism, but about fear and rumor and propaganda. [saalemwitchmuseum.com]

SALEM TAROT PAGE This is educational but also fun. The part of witchcraft that every-



body seems interested in divination—telling the future and the past. A lot of witches make a living doing psychic counseling. We have an advanced page. [saalemtarot.com]

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HOW TO GET THE **MOST NET** IN THE **LEAST TIME** EDITED BY ROB BERNSTEIN

FINDIT

BY CHARLES PAPPAS

Is your software outdated? Free Internet services can keep you informed of the **latest upgrades**



FIVE MINUTES AFTER YOU INSTALL THE latest Carrot Top screen saver, a new version gets released. How can anyone expect you to keep up? Luckily, a combination of software and Web-based solutions can help you stay on top of program upgrades, bug fixes, and more.

For instance, at **ZDNET: UPDATES.COM** [updates.zdnet.com], you can have your PC examined for outdated software and find links to sites where you can acquire the latest upgrades. Click the site's My Updates link and then the Scan My PC button. The free online service also includes a newsletter that alerts surfers to upgrades via e-mail.

Also worth a look is **WWW.VERSIONS.COM**, another free update service. As at Updates.com, there's no software to download or install. Just sign up for an account

online and use the site's TrakList to monitor any of more than 112,000 Windows, Macintosh, Palm, and Linux programs. When an upgrade becomes available, the site will notify you right away by e-mail.

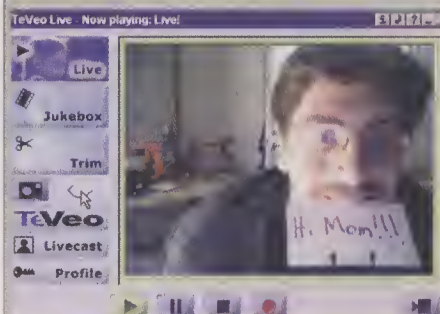
Although **CNET: CATCHUP.COM** [catchup.com] requires that you download a 770KB program, it's as easy to use as Updates.com and more comprehensive than Versions. The service will not only scan your PC for outdated programs but also check for security holes in your software.

Finally, if all you want to do is update your browser, click on Tools/Windows Update in Internet Explorer or Help/Software Updates in Netscape Communicator. Your browser will take you to an update page, where you can locate new software and patches.

QUICKTIPS

ON THE SAME PAGE

Simplify your surfing with **OCTOPUS** [octopus.com], a free service that collects bits and pieces of sundry sites and unifies them into a single Web page. You design and edit the site yourself, and you can set up a page for checking multiple e-mail accounts. Other services that aggregate content include **ONEPAGE** [onepage.com], **ACCOUNTMINDER.COM**, **QUICKBROWSE.COM**, and **WEBSPLIT.COM**, which splits your browser to display multiple sites at once.



WEB CAMEO

With TeVeO Live 2.0, Web cam users can broadcast and view streaming video from any PC in the world, at no cost. After downloading and installing the software, you need only to click the program's Live button to get the cameras rolling; friends and family log in as guests at **TEVEO** [teveo.com], where they can view your password-protected "Livecast." You can also store up to 50MB of prerecorded digital media at TeVeO for free. The software works with most Web cam brands and requires that your system be running Windows 98.

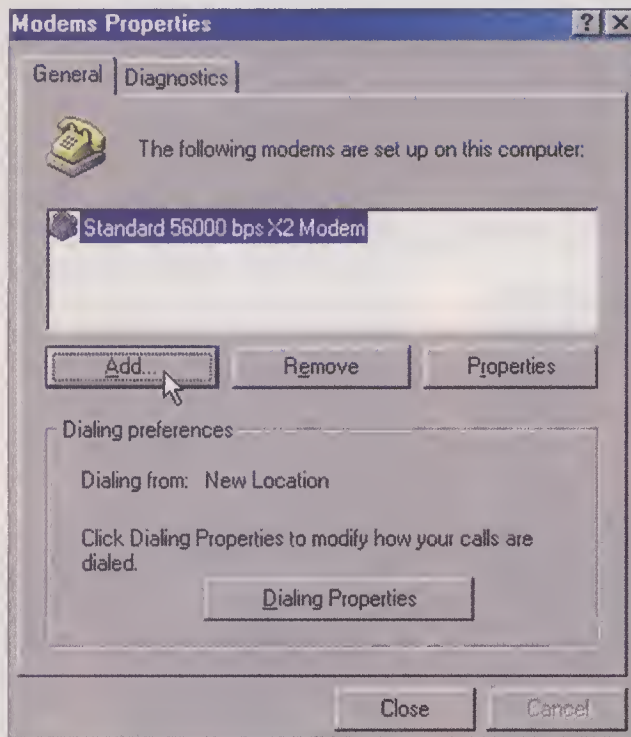
OFF-TRACK

Internet direct marketer DoubleClick has introduced an opt-out feature on its Web site, **DOUBLECLICK PRIVACY: OPT-OUT** [doubleclick.com/optout/default.asp]; here surfers can request to be removed from the company's advertising banner network, which tracks your surfing habits at more than 1,200 popular Web destinations.

LEARN IT

BY LOU DOLINAR

Simple modem tricks for measuring and accelerating sluggish connections



.01

TEST IT

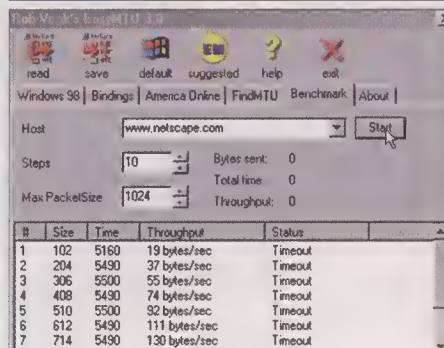
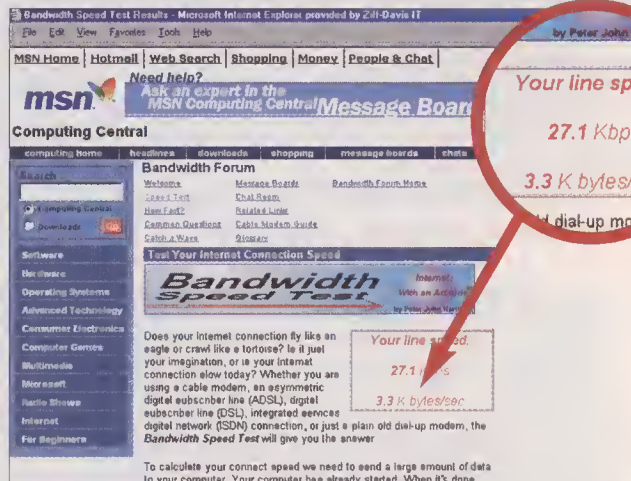
When you log on, Windows displays only the speed at which your initial connection was made. To get a more accurate reading, click to **MSN COMPUTING CENTRAL: BANDWIDTH SPEED TEST** [computingcentral.msn.com/topics/bandwidth/speedtest50.asp]. Better yet, download the **DU METER** [hageltech.com/dumeter] from Hagel Technologies to isolate and measure the performance of your connection. The PC-only program can also alert you to the unauthorized uploading or downloading of data. DU Meter is free to try and \$15 to buy.

.02

TWEAK IT

If your modem is more than a year old, you should click to its manufacturer's site to look for software upgrades. You should also inspect your PC's TCP/IP settings and tweak them to maximize your modem throughput. If you don't know how to do this manually (who does?), download and install **EASYMTU** [easymtu.tripod.com/easymtu]. This free, PC-only program handles the task beautifully.

Furthermore, check your modem driver settings at Start/Settings/Control Panel/Modems. If your modem is set to Generic Modem or Standard Modem, you're not getting the most out of your hardware. Click the Add button to launch a Windows setup wizard, and then properly install your brand of modem.



FAST TIMES: Update your modem settings (far left); clock your connection speed at MSN Computing Central (top); boost modem throughput with EasyMTU.

.03

FIX IT

You may have to repair or replace faulty phone wiring in your home, which can cause slow or dropped connections. To test for this problem, lift your phone and press 1. Listen for line interference, such as faint voices or hissing. Another test: Borrow a friend's laptop and try connecting to his ISP from your home. If the connection works, chances are the trouble is with your modem. If you still suspect the problem is with the phone line, call your local phone company; in most areas, it will fix internal wiring for a fee. For more phone line tips, read **LINE NOISE TESTING PROCEDURES** [help.ibm.net/help/lib/tlcoinfo.html].

.04

PITCH IT

If you have a no-name modem that consistently connects at low speeds or drops connections, just chuck it. Beware low-priced modems known as soft modems or WinModems. They rely on the computer's main processor and software to handle basic modem tasks. Soft modems are cheaply made and should be avoided.

LOU DOLINAR WRITES THE "PLUGGED IN" COLUMN FOR **NEWSDAY**.

WEBTOOLBOX

Tired of Microsoft's mind-numbingly boring Windows wallpaper? Shake things up a little with

WALLPAPER CHANGER

[wallpaperchanger.de], a free PC-only utility that manages the background images on your desktop. Schedule the wallpaper to change each time you boot up your system or at regular intervals. The program can tile and resize images and can determine which icons and background colors best match your wallpaper. Or you can instruct it to scan your hard drive for graphics files, which can be used as wallpaper.



Keep tabs on your favorite Web sites with **C4U** [c-4-u.com], a terrific utility that checks sites for changes in text, images, e-mail addresses, and links. If C4U finds a modification to a site, it opens the HTML document in its own browser window and conveniently marks the changes in red. The free software requires that your system be running Windows 95, 98, or NT.

You love to shop on the Web. You loathe online checkout forms. You need to pick up **OBONGO** [www.obongo.com], a free utility that fastens to the bottom of your browser and automatically fills out forms for you, including credit card and address info. The application can also compare prices among various online vendors and pull up consumer reviews of products with the click of a mouse. Obongo works with Netscape 4.06 or later, or Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.x or later, and it requires that your system be running Windows 95, 98, NT, or 2000.

TRY IT

BY JIM LOUDERBACK

The ZapStation, a new and innovative Internet set-top box, wants to transform your home theater into a multimedia network

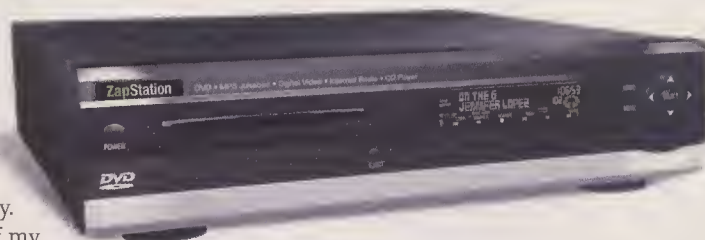
THE INTERNET IS slowly creeping into every room in my home. I'm not sure if this is something I should be proud of or embarrassed by. First the Net took hold of my home office. Next it made its way into the kitchen, in the form of a Net appliance: a stripped-down PC my wife and I use to pull up recipes posted online.

Now we have access to the Internet from the basement, the back porch, and most recently, the living room, where we've installed ZapMedia's **ZAPSTATION** [zapstation.com]. This black, rectangular box—which is still in beta and is due to ship at Christmastime—lets you access the Internet from your TV set. It can also send and receive e-mail, play traditional CDs and DVDs, and download and store up to 10,000 MP3 audio files or 20 hours of high-end digital video.

Furthermore, the ZapStation connects to most home theater components, which allows you to play digital media on your stereo or TV. This is a wonderful feature, especially for Internet audiophiles who've always wanted to blast their MP3 compilations through their stereo speakers. Setup is straightforward, though you'll have to fiddle with a bunch of cables that attach the device to your boob tube, VCR, or stereo.

Thus far, I've been using the ZapStation to play Web animations from **SPUMCO** [spumco.com] and **ICEBOX** [icebox.com] on my 27-inch TV. I've also been using it to download Russian rock from a Moscow-based band. Unfortunately, you can't upload audio files from your PC to the ZapStation. This is really disappointing, seeing as I have more than 1,000 songs loaded and categorized on my home system. It's also worth noting that you can't run popular file-sharing programs, such as Napster or Gnutella, on the ZapStation. However, you can use it to rip tracks from your CDs—a redeeming feature.

As for Internet access, the ZapStation supports DSL and cable broadband connections. It also comes equipped with a built-in 56Kbps modem, but I can't imagine why you'd use it. The device's strength lies in its ability to store large amounts of digital



FULLY CHARGED: Available at Christmastime, the ZapStation lets surfers save and play back up to 30GB of digital media.

media, and it would take countless days to fill half of ZapStation's 30GB hard disk at 56Kbps.

A wireless remote control and keyboard help you navigate the Net; enter e-mail messages; and scroll through, play, rewind, and pause all your digital media. For surfing the Web, the ZapStation uses a proprietary browser. It doesn't have as many features as Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator, but it loaded most Web sites I visited and was capable of displaying Java, Shockwave, and Flash files. Still, it's subpar software that delivers a subpar surfing experience. Don't buy this system solely for its Net access.

In spite of its inability to communicate with my PC, I got a charge out of the ZapStation. It's a clever device, and it offers a glimpse at the future of home entertainment. However, I can't recommend it just yet. When I tested the ZapStation, its guts and software were still being tweaked, and the cost of the device hadn't been finalized. However, the manufacturer's site is now accepting preorders, charging \$599 per ZapStation. At press time, CEO Ken Lipscomb hinted that there would be a \$10 per month subscription fee. That's in addition to your monthly service provider's charge. So it's "wait and see" on this one. In the meantime, I'll work on providing Net access to other rooms in the house. Next up: the garage.

JIM LOUDERBACK IS HOST OF ZDTV'S *FRESH GEAR*.

BUY IT? When All Is Said and Done...

The ZapStation provides e-mail, limited Web access, a DVD player, and lots of storage space for your digital media. It also networks all of your home theater components. If only it could connect to your PC too.

SEARCHALERT

BY DANNY SULLIVAN

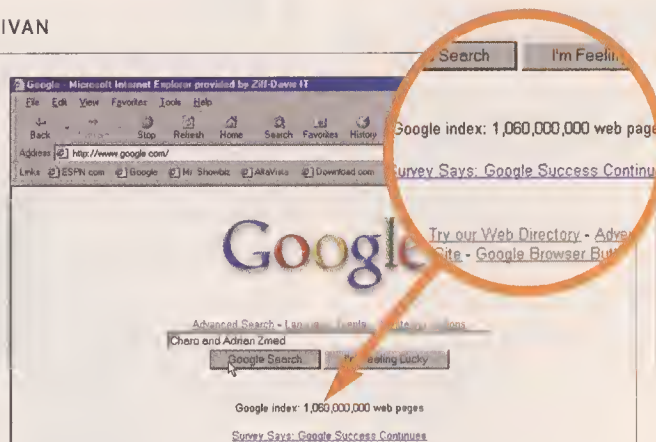
In the cutthroat world of search engines, size does matter

THE SEARCH ENGINE SIZE BARRIER HAS BEEN BROKEN YET AGAIN. The latest to shatter the record is **GOOGLE** [google.com], whose searchable database has grown to include a whopping 560 million fully indexed Web pages, plus 500 million partially indexed URLs, allowing the site to search more than 1 billion Web sites.

This is good news for Web surfers; the greater a search engine's coverage, the better its chances of locating data on the Net, especially hard-to-find Web content such as personal home pages and obscure medical documents.

Although Google is the current record holder, there are several rivals working fast to overtake it. **INKTOMI** [www.inktomi.com], a company that provides search results to Web sites such as **MSN SEARCH** [search.msn.com], **IWON** [iwon.com], and **HOTBOT** [hotbot.com], boasts a 500-million page index. There's also **FAST SEARCH** [alltheweb.com], whose database was the first to surpass 300 million pages. Its database is now 400 million pages deep and is another great choice for locating little-known sites.

If you want to get into the nooks and crannies of the Web, also look to metasearch engines for help. These services can send queries to multiple search engines at the same time. I recommend



BIG BOY: Google claims to maintain the largest database.

you check out **IXQUICK** [ixquick.com], a new metasearch engine with a neat hook: It places links that turn up in multiple search engines at the top of its results listing.

Expect the search engine size barrier to get broken again in the coming months. At press time, Fast Search said it aims to grow its database to a staggering 1 billion pages by the end of the year.

DANNY SULLIVAN RUNS SEARCH ENGINE WATCH [searchenginewatch.com].

SURFGURU

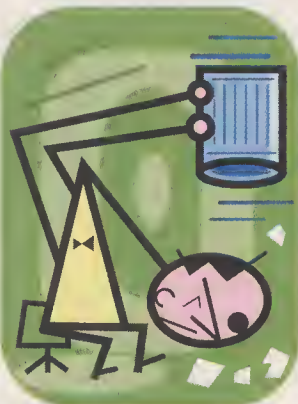
Undeleting lost files; learning your IP address

I inadvertently deleted important files that I had downloaded from the Net. Please tell me there's a way to recover them.

Before you curl up in the fetal position and cry for mommy, or make a mad dash to your local computer retailer and spend hundreds of dollars on data recovery, download and install a program called Directory Snoop from **BRIGGS SOFTWAREWORKS**

[briggsoft.com]. This PC-only shareware (\$30) dredges up all kinds of lost files, whether they've been tossed in the Recycle

Bin or manually deleted. Of course, the program doesn't always work; it has a much higher success rate with recently deleted files. It's also worth noting that Directory Snoop offers a useful Wipe fea-



ture, which permanently erases selected files.

Apparently, to play Quake III and other games online with a friend, I need to know my IP address. What's an IP address?

An Internet Protocol address is a unique series of four numbers that

is assigned to your computer by your ISP. Essentially, IP addresses allow computers to identify and connect with other computers online. To determine the IP address on your PC, connect to the Net and click the Start button. Choose Run and enter **WINIPCFG** in the Open field. Click OK. This will launch the IP Configuration window. In the pull-down window, choose PPP adapter. Your IP address will appear next to the heading IP address. Some ISPs assign a single, static IP address to subscribers; others, including America Online, assign new ones to members each time they connect to the Net. If you use AOL and want to play Quake III with a friend online or use some other program that requires your IP address, you'll need to identify it each time you log on.

AOLWATCH

Tired of hearing "welcome" each time you log on? It's easy to replace the AOL greeting with a new audio file, such as, "Conan prays to his God, Krom." Click the Start button and choose Settings/Control Panel. In the Control Panel window, double-click on the Sounds icon. Under Events, highlight Welcome. Click Browse and search for a new audio file. Double-click this file and hit OK. Need ideas for new AOL sounds? Head to **WAVCENTRAL.COM**.

SEE THE SURF GURU AT WWW.SURF-GURU.COM DAILY AND ON ZDTV'S INTERNET TONIGHT.



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acterizing the exchanges as harmless.

On November 30, 1999, 22 members of the Norfolk staff were fired without warning. Times officials have declined to go into detail, but there's little question that by transmitting distasteful material over the Internet, the Norfolk employees ran afoul of the company's policy, of which they had twice been informed: "Computer communications...are not to be used to create, forward, or display any offensive or disruptive messages, including photographs, graphics, and audio materials."

The medium that promises an unprecedented amount of privacy is also the one that threatens privacy's unprecedented erosion. In his book, *Code and Other Laws of Cyberspace*, legal scholar Lawrence Lessig notes our power to create structures that foster freedom yet can also oppress the individual. "There is no reason to believe that the grounding for liberty in cyberspace will simply emerge....We have every reason to believe that cyberspace, left to itself, will not fulfill the promise of freedom. Left to itself, cyberspace will become a perfect tool of control."

And this—at least amid the dearth of

workplace privacy—would seem to be where the invisible hand leads us. Privacy has benefited from the inadequacy of technologies that would compromise it. Put another way, colonial Americans had little fear of having their telephones tapped. But in light of the exceptionally weak legal protections for workers, software publishers have jumped to satisfy the demand for utilities that let employers monitor their workers. Among the ways you're being watched:

■ **Spector:** Essentially a surveillance camera for the Internet, Spector takes snapshots of whatever Web site is being visited through the machine on which it's running. "Secretly record everything your spouse, children, and employees do online," boasts the Spector home page.

■ **eBlaster:** Not only captures images of Web sites visited but also logs keystrokes so that "you can get hourly or daily reports of all the Web sites your employees are visiting, as well as everything they are typing."

■ **Silent Watch:** This program can monitor multiple computers in real time. Also records keystrokes, even deleted ones, and will freeze a user's desktop if the user is engaged in "questionable activity."

■ **eWatch:** Less a software application than a corporate surveillance network, eWatch, a service of PR Newswire, allows companies to track what's being written about them in cyberspace and "pinpoint corporate activism." More than 800 corporations rely on eWatch, which monitors Usenet groups, AOL discussion areas, bulletin boards, and thousands of sites with editorial content. Individual activists, like Childers and Aquacool 2000, can be tracked for a stiff fee of \$5,000 per screen name.

These products, combined with the inadequate legal protection of workplace privacy, have created a controlled environment in which that all-important American liberty, the right to be left alone, is dependent on the goodwill of an employer. The ideal legislation that would create a true sphere of workplace privacy hasn't yet been drafted, according to Barry Steinhardt, associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union and a privacy policy analyst. He, like many other privacy advocates, bemoans the erosion of the American public's privacy rights over the past 100 years.

Which isn't to say that Congress can't turn the tide. The National Security

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20. A man inside
21. Any books written "For Dummies"
22. A vice
23. A 9-year-old to show you how it's done
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25. A leather leash
26. Furry leather handbags
27. Smokey Neilsen
28. Hair gel
29. A new cream
30. A new job
31. Breast augmentation
32. Collagen
33. Hair accessories
34. Perfect atmosphere
35. Romantic sunset
36. Day Markers
37. A snowboard
38. Athletic ability
39. A well-tailored, PDA, or Franklin-Covey designer
40. Diverse fancies
41. Best pain
42. Anything from the Gap, Old Navy, or Abernombin & Flah
43. Keweenaw
44. Special padded gloves
45. "The Official Dungeons & Dragons Guide"
46. A 1000-year-old of the Shogun
47. Your lovely sis(sister), Steve
48. Science fiction
49. Box seats
50. A \$100,000, Federal engagement ring
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53. 4.4 seconds in the 40
54. A 50-inch vertical
55. 5000 horsepower
56. Hair gel
57. Teeth whitening
58. Huggies
59. The killer crossover
60. The 50
61. A tall, sleeky double moda with extra who stream and a shot of fuzusnel
62. Condoms
63. KY
64. A W-2
65. Cell phone
66. Paper
67. Vaseline
68. A series of style
69. Domestic violence
70. A supermodel significant other
71. A 1000-year-old of the Shogun
72. An 800
73. An 800
74. A poster face
75. Taxes
76. A 1000-year-old of the Shogun
77. A 1000-year-old of the Shogun
78. An Elizabethan script



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Agency is under attack for its multilateral spy system, Echelon (see "Global Eavesdroppers," page 103); the FBI's Carnivore technology, which gathers e-mails right off an Internet provider's server, is also under fire. All this has contributed to a minor political flurry in the capital.

On June 29, the House of Representatives Government Reform Committee approved legislation that would create a commission to explore an individual's right to privacy. The commission would have 18 months to study workplace privacy, among other issues in the field.

Two weeks later, the White House promulgated legislation that would eradicate the current legal distinction between wiretapping and e-mail gathering.

And, on July 20, Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., and Reps. Charles Canady, R-Fla., and Bob Barr, R-Ga., introduced legislation that would require employers not only to inform workers that they're being monitored but also to specify in writing what the company is monitoring—including keystrokes, Web use, and telephone conversations. Though, as the recent AMA report noted, 88 percent of U.S. firms

already inform their employees that monitoring takes place, these policies are often ambiguous, granting employers a troubling amount of leeway.


The ACLU's Steinhardt sees Schumer's legislation as "a start." For his part, Schumer reveals the attitude underpinning the bill: "This legislation provides workers with a first line of defense against a practice that amounts to nothing more than a blatant invasion of privacy."

Recognizing that serious legislative attempts to protect privacy will likely be embattled, author Jeffrey Rosen, a law professor at George Washington University and the legal affairs editor for *The New Republic*, observes that a great deal more might be accomplished by the removal of one of the major economic incentives for employers to monitor their employees: the threat of sexual harassment claims.

In his recently published book, *The Unwanted Gaze: The Destruction of Privacy in America*, Rosen makes a compelling case that sexual harassment laws, intended to protect employees, have ultimately given employers greater incentive to monitor employee communications for offensive

content. "In cases where sexually offensive speech or conduct has no tangible or intangible job consequences," Rosen writes, "invasion of privacy law may be better equipped than discrimination law to distinguish between indignities that are merely embarrassing and those that are serious enough to be illegal."

If such a sea change in workplace privacy policy does take place, it will be a little late to save the Brian Ropers of the world. For now, he says, he'll continue to commute two hours a day for work and rail against the "computer raid" that came up with e-mails that he says he never sent.

Maybe he did. Maybe he didn't. In the long run it really doesn't matter. Big Boss is winning the war on privacy in the workplace—and he's winning with barely a fight. We'd scream if our bosses opened our paper mail. We'd shout if they tapped our phones. But they're tracking our every electronic move—and, for now, they're getting away with it. The workplace has been rebuilt as a glass house. The boss is peering in. 

JEFF HOWE writes on technology issues for *Feed*, *Industry Standard*, and *The Village Voice*.

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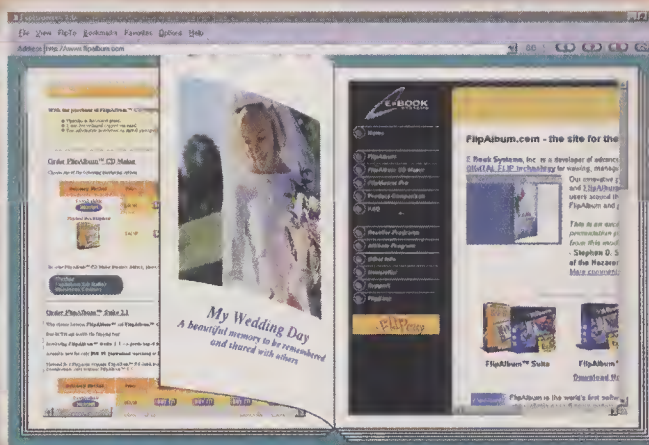
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THE WEIRD AND THE WACKY ON THE INTERNET BY SCOTT ALEXANDER

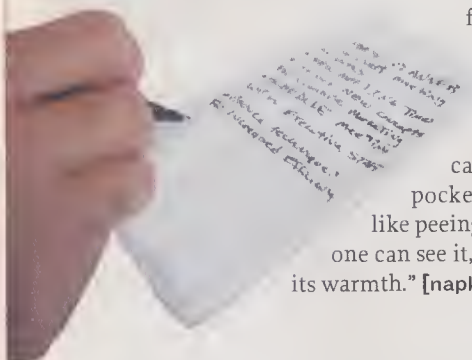
The Semiotics of Hair

YOUR HAIR SAYS A LOT ABOUT YOU, BUT UP until now, it's been very difficult to hear. This site lets you turn up the volume and learn a little about what makes your tufts tick. But be warned—hair ain't simple. The pompadour by itself may be the mark of the Rebel, for example, but a pompadour-and-mustache combination signifies an Italianate every time. Alongside a beard, meanwhile, the pompadour clearly shows you are dealing with a Byzantine. Finally, a way to experiment with bad hair days *before* you have them. [www.artfink.demon.co.uk/chap/wigs/frame.html]



Napkin.org

YOU'RE IN A BAR, SOMETHING STRIKES YOU AS HUMOROUS OR DEEP, and you just have to write it down right away. By the next morning, the partly disintegrated cocktail napkin in your pocket is illegible, sparing you the knowledge that the previous evening, you thought "Did you ever realize that you are constantly smelling your nose?" was important enough to record. Well, you can no longer hide from the collective stupidity of mankind. Napkin.org's noble mission is to preserve for posterity such earth-shattering thoughts as, "If your pocket falls off, it's okay. You can stick it in your other pocket," and "Happiness is like peeing in your pants. Everyone can see it, but only you can feel its warmth." [napkin.org]



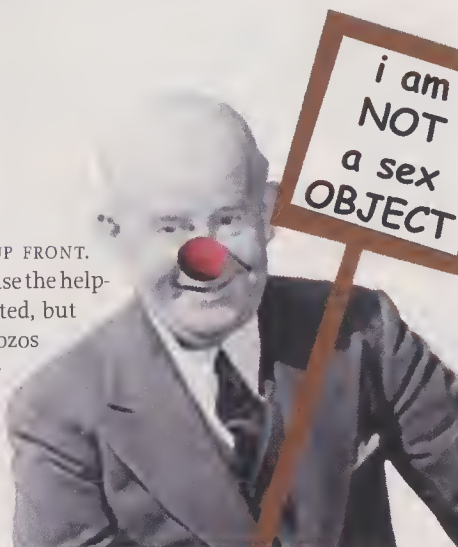
The Flat Earth FAQ



FORGET THE BRAINWASHING inflicted on you by your grade-school teachers and those faked NASA photos, and get with the truth. The Earth is flat, people, and it always has been. Make sure you adjust your travel plans accordingly. The South Pole is the Edge of the World, and ships can easily be lost over the brink (or flip over to the underside). If you feel duped, don't be ashamed: Life is a learning experience. You probably once thought that Idaho and North Dakota actually existed, and you grew out of that, didn't you? [www.flat-earth.org/platygea/faq.mhtml]

Stop Clown Porn Now

LET'S GET ONE THING CLEAR UP FRONT. Clown porn is wrong. Not because the helpless creatures are being exploited, but because it's asin to want to see bozos in the buff doing unspeakable things with seltzer bottles and cream pies. Call us Dr. Laura, but in this case, we really do know what's best for you and your family. [stopclownpornnow.org]



Dull Men's Club

WE CAN'T ALL BE THE LIFE OF THE PARTY. LET'S FACE it: If everyone were, then actually *being* the life of the party would suddenly seem very, very lame. So don't fall into a shame spiral if you look in the mirror one day and see a completely uninteresting person staring back at you. Realize that you are not alone in your struggle to come to terms with your mind-bogglingly lackluster nature. With its "make a molehill out of a mountain" ethos and events such as National Napping Month and Shopping Cart Safety Awareness Week, the Dull Men's Club can help you embrace your inner bore. [dullmen.com]

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As part of our commitment to play a role in reducing underage smoking, we have created a Youth Smoking Prevention Department whose sole purpose is to develop and support programs to help reduce the incidence of youth smoking. We've dedicated significant resources—over \$100 million last year—toward initiatives based on the key components listed above. We are spending another \$100 million against these initiatives in 2000.

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and other national organizations.

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For more information about our youth smoking prevention efforts, visit our Web site at www.philipmorrisusa.com. If you don't have Internet access, please call 1-877-PMUSAWEB.

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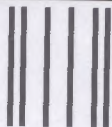
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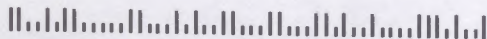
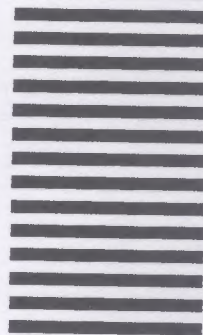
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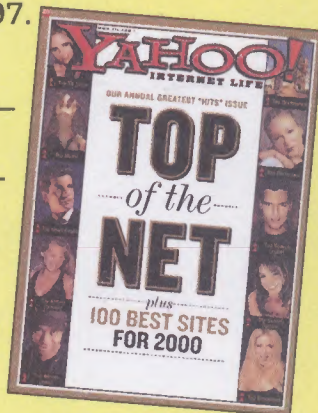
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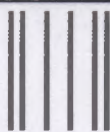
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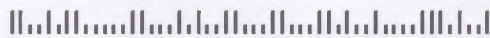
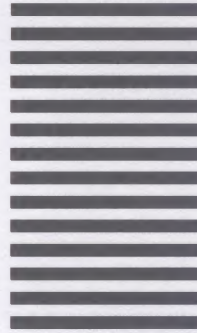
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